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HERALD CASTIGATES U.S. POLICIES, QUESTIONS MOTIVES

Economic Pressures

St Johns HERALD in English 15 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Front Page Commentary]

[Text]

The United States is always referred to as "a friendly nation" when being discussed in all circles in Antigua.

But recent actions by the U.S. Government relating to Antigua seriously undermines the good relations that have existed between our two countries.

Antigua and Barbuda's pro-U.S. posture became legendary when its Prime Minister, Vere Bird, went out on the limb to support U.S. policies in Central America, much to the chagrin of Caribbean intellectuals, leaders and its people. The Caribbean country has also fully supported other U.S. policies in the Caribbean, notably the increased military presence.

What has Antigua and Barbuda gained in concrete terms for its unswerving support. Nothing. The U.S. has offered certain AID facilities for Caribbean countries, eg. the CBI, but this fac-

ity died even before it saw the light of day.

What the Caribbean needed was a mini-Marshall Plan, as articulated by Deputy Prime Minister, Lester Bird at a meeting in Jamaica a few years ago.

Like the Marshall Plan which transformed the impoverished economies of Western Europe after World War II, Mr. Bird suggested that the U.S. spent money directly into the infrastructure of the region thus tackling one of the fundamental problems of poverty. He took the view that this will provide the catalyst for an economic take-off, which will enable the countries to take advantage of the CBI. He felt that a country could not go overnight from an agricultural economy, to one with the level of sophistication needed to access the U.S. market.

The benefits to potential U.S. investors under the CBI, were eroded by Congress and Special In-

terest Group Lobbies, this leaving it an empty shell. This is not to say that the idea of the CBI was not commended, but it was like putting the cart before the horse.

Like most third world nations, Antigua and Barbuda has incurred large debts over the years for infrastructural development.

These include the Deep Water Harbour loan, the original desalting plant loan, and loans for electricity generators. These have all contributed significantly to the economic growth the island have undergone in the 1960's.

It is instructive to note the U.S. Administration goes to all lengths, even bending the law, to provide financial AID to the Contras in Nicaragua by soliciting donations from Saudi Arabia and Brunei and US\$10 million ended up in a private bank account (yet they accuse Antigua of alleged corruption).

At the same time, any third world countries which borrows money to improve infrastructure, because AID windows are closed on spurious grounds that per capita income is too high, is forced to seek these loans from Commercial Banks at commercial rates: The U.S. Government's response has been to use its influence in the international arena to force these countries into IMF constraints or 'Paris Club's' constraints, which could have the effect of putting thousands

out of work, stalling the economy and destabilizing the country.

At this point, it is our understanding that the Antigua government has retained the reputable international firm of Morgan Grenfell, to re-schedule its external debts. We also understand that British Export Credit Guarantee Department, E.R.G.O of Switzerland and other overseas credit agencies, have reached an agreement with the Antigua Government on the debt repay-

ment schedule. All concerned will be ranked *pari passu*, that is all payments will be distributed equally among creditors.

We also understand that based on the advice of the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Government is attempting to torpedo these arrangements that have the blessings of the European creditors.

The Americans are believed to be asking for the status quo, because they are already receiving payments for the Deep Water Harbour and other projects.

This is a selfish and unfriendly attitude towards a country considered as a 'most favoured nation'. Does the U.S. has a hidden agenda? [as published]. It's representatives have stated that they want to see opposition in Antigua. Are these the seeds being sown? Is this an attempt to slow up the economy, force the government into accepting IMF restraints one and a half years before general elections? What are the U.S. true motives?

Moves Against Banking Laws

St Johns HERALD in English 22 May 87 p 1

[Front Page Commentary]

[Text]

The sovereignty which Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean states achieved after long arduous journeys to nationhood is under threat of being insidiously eroded if the countries involved are not careful.

This threat is not coming from home-grown revolutionaries, nor is it coming from foreign insurgence. The threat is not being borne with the force of arms.

It is being mounted on the economic front by the United States.

Information reaching the paper suggests that the United States Government, as part of its strategem of imposing extra-territorial jurisdiction of U.S. law in the Caribbean, is seeking to attack the sovereignty of these countries in many respects.

With the help of the British Government, the U.S.A. has managed to circumvent certain banking

laws on the books of the islands of Montserrat, Tortola, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Anguilla.

Our information suggests that the U.S. now has its eyes on the independent territories of the Caribbean.

Antigua and Barbuda passed an international Banking Act, paving the way for the establishment of off-shore banks in the country. From the registration of these banks, the government hopes to raise monies each year for the National Treasury.

These banks operate in an atmosphere of secrecy, upon which their success pings.

Now the U.S. is using every means possible to get Caribbean countries with international banking laws on their statute books, to remove them, or to have exchange of information.

It is making it a condition for these countries to gain access to the 936 funds available for twin plant arrangements between Caricom and Puerto Rico. Special tax break for large conventions in Caribbean islands are being made conditional upon the removal of the banking laws. Future aid may also tie in with whether or not a country has these laws on the books.

This is not to say that Caribbean countries must allow their off-shore banking facilities to be used to launder drug money

or by International criminals.

In fact, a highly placed source in the Antigua and Barbuda Government has told this paper that it has already notified the U.S. that if it can present a prima facie case of money laundering in the local off-shore banking circles, it will have full rights to proceed with apprehension of those involved.

We have noticed that the U.S., through its agencies, is trying to malign the integrity of officials in countries with the off-shore banking laws. One doesn't want to pass judgement one way or another, but it is instructive to note that in the case of former St. Kitts U.S. Ambassador, Billy Herbert, no less than the country's Bar Association has come to his defence. The question here is, who is next?

Caribbean countries must guard against being coerced into willing partners in the erosion of their sovereignty.

Perhaps, increased aid flow from the U.S. to the Caribbean would reduce the attraction of off-shore banks.

We learn from the Iran/Contra Hearings of a complex network established to help the Contra cause in Nicaragua, had the U.S. directed this much priority and ingenuity to helping the Caribbean overcome economic hurdles, then the region would not have had to encourage the establishment of off-shore banks to generate financing for infrastructural development.

Those monies wasted and or lost from the Iran deal would certainly have helped the Caribbean a long way on the road to economic development.

U.S. Lack of 'Understanding'

St Johns HERALD in English 22 May 87 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

The United States, the Caribbean's powerful and wealthy friend to the north, seems incapable of understanding the intrinsic differences between its system of democracy and the Westminster System, which is practiced in much of the Caribbean.

A case in point is last Wednesday's Voice of America programme where UNDP Leader, Dr. Ivor Heath, was asserting his

rights for equal air time on local radio and television. He made his case on the basis of his position of leader of a political party and having registered that party - he now sees himself as the de facto opposition leader, and thus certain privileges are due him. But Tim Hector of the ACLM, who through the Outlet Newspaper is certainly more of an opposition than Dr. Heath's UNDP can make a claim for the same

rights. So too, could members of the almost defunct PLM.

The point here is that while in the United States, declared candidates are guaranteed air time rights as incumbents, the same is not true for Commonwealth countries. Under the Westminster System, the criterion for the assumption of the office of official opposition, a party has to first face the electorate and have secured seats in parliament. With that done, the opposition is given certain rights and responsibilities, such as nominating members to the Upper House, the Senate in our case.

Yet, in the most recent report on the Human Rights situation in Antigua as prepared by the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Government keeps harping on the point that the opposition in Antigua do not have access to the electronic media and that this is indicative of a lack of freedom of speech in Antigua and Barbuda.

This paper agrees that the parliamentary opposition should be given the right to comment on important national issues, and it is with this in mind that we welcome

the announcement that the Parliamentary Opposition will be afforded such an opportunity to comment on the White Paper of Economic Development objectives prepared by the Ministry of Economic Development.

The UNDP, which is now aligned with the AWU and ex-PLM members, would be well advised to start up its own paper to get its views across. This will give nationals another perspective from which to analyse issues which develop from time to time.

In Britain, the ruling party gets more air time than the opposition, but it is unheard of for a non-parliamentary party to be given air time in the Commonwealth. This is particularly true for Caricom countries.

The Westminster System has been around much longer than the U.S. Constitution and most people of the Caribbean are quite happy with it.

Nobody, including the U.S. should try to impose upon the Caribbean another system when the present one is working as well as it has.

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CSO: 3298/232

GUADELOUPE FISHERMEN SEEK TIES WITH COUNTERPARTS HERE

St Johns HERALD in English 15 May 87 p 3

[Text]

Fishermen in neighbouring Guadeloupe, one of the French Caribbean Departments, have expressed a strong desire to establish closer ties with their Antiguan counterparts.

Their wish was made known to representatives of the Antigua & Barbuda Fishermen Association, during a visit to St. John's by the executive of the Guadeloupe Fishermen Association.

The delegation was led by their President, Yoyotte J. Claude who told local fishermen, "we are neighbours in the Caribbean, who share the same history and the same faith and it is time we come together and exchange ideas mutually beneficial to us all."

He noted that his committee is fully aware of the seriousness with which Antiguan fishermen approach the whole subject of conservation of their fishing resources, and that this is one area they are anxious to learn about from the local fishermen.

"We are aware that our future depends greatly on the conservation we do today," Mr. Claude noted.

Secretary of the Antigua Fishermen Association, Gerald Pryce told the Guadeloupeans his association is happy "with the new turn of events". He noted that the Guadeloupeans have fished indiscriminately in the past, but both himself and the association would be more than happy to share their knowledge with their neighbours.

Mr. Pryce also explained that his association cannot give permission to fish in the country's territorial waters, but that if a Guadeloupean vessel develops trouble at sea and needs help from local fishermen, they would be happy to assist.

Mr. Pryce disclosed that there are about 500 fishermen in Antigua who make a living within the industry.

The Guadeloupeans have also extended an invitation for local fishermen to make a similar goodwill visit to their island.

ARTICLE DISCUSSES POLITICAL CLIMATE, PARTIES' PROSPECTS

St Johns HERALD in English 22 May 87 p 4

[Article by Paget De Freitas]

[Text]

Despite infighting and persistent allegations of corruption in Government, Prime Minister Vere Bird's Antigua Labour Party (ALP) is confident of returning to power any time elections are called.

And few people here would hazard a bet otherwise.

"If we went to the poll the party would win a significant amount of the seats," said ALP Chairman and Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird. "We are confident that we would win."

Even if they don't share the Government's publicly stated reason for confidence that the economy is booming and people are satisfied with the administration - its opponents admit that it will be no easy task to unseat the ALP, now into a second consecutive five-year term.

"It is not going to be easy to break the ALP's strangle-hold," conceded Baldwin Spencer, a Trade Unionist and deputy

leader of the year-old United National Democratic Party (UNDP).

"The government controls the election machinery, most access to press and dictates the system," he added. "But the people are beginning to realise there is need for change and are not prepared to gloss over the real problems and to see the cosmetics."

"There is no question about it. It is clear for anybody to see that corruption is a major problem in Antigua," Spencer said.

The Bird administration has continuously fended corruption charges since its return to office in 1976, but never have the problems been as severe for the 76-year-old Prime Minister.

Last year Paris newspapers raised questions about a US\$11 million dollar airport rehabilitation project, financed essentially with French loans, that was under the charge of Prime Minister's eldest son and Cabinet member, Vere Bird Jr. The rehabili-

tation was originally estimated by the World Bank to cost US\$750,000 dollars.

Prime Minister Bird, after widespread charges and counter charges over the issue, set up an investigation by retired judge Sir Archibald Nedd. Vere Bird Jr. has strongly denied any wrong doing in the scheme. The airport issue also had another effect: Helping to widen simmering conflicts in the Prime Minister's Cabinet. For instance, earlier this year when Bird Snr. decided to re-assign portfolios, Adolphus Freeland, the Housing and Labour Minister, publicly declined a shift to health and called for a change in the leadership of the ALP.

He, however, later retracted and took the job.

Then the Education Minister, Reuben Harris, presented a 45-page memorandum to the investigator on the Airport Project that if nothing else, raised questions about conflict of interest on the part of Vere Bird Jr.

Harris is also a member of the so-called

"Group of Eight" (informally led by the Deputy Prime Minister) seeking reform in the party and government.

This has put Prime Minister Bird's two cabinet member sons, Vere Bird Jr. and Lester Bird, on opposite sides of the divide in the party and government quarrels.

"The Labour Party is a divided party," the UNDP leader told his party's recent second annual conference. "It has been glued several times, but the divisions within that party are too deep to be repaired by glue."

Lester Bird, the ALP's most eloquent spokesman and aspiring leader, has sought to downplay the quarrels within the ALP and focus on the economy.

He argues that the opposition here has been on a deliberate long-term course of spreading corruption "MUD" hoping that some would stick.

Outlet, the newspaper of the Left-wing Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) frequently carries stories about corruption in government and revelations of cabinet disputes. "This country, by any standard is 'doing well', declared Bird, who is also the Foreign, Economic Development and Tourism Minister.

Last year, he noted, the Antiguan economy grew by over six per cent and is expected to record similar expansion this year. Tourism, the country's major foreign exchange earner, is expanding and a building boom

is now on in the island. Yet opposition in this country has sought to sell the issue of corruption by mentioning it often enough," Lester Bird said. The danger, the Deputy Prime Minister said, was presenting the whole body politic as being corrupt.

He said that in the case of the airport issue, judgement were being arrived at without all the facts and findings of the investor.

But what of Harris' memorandum? "One member of government felt there were questions to be answered."

The Deputy Prime Minister and ALP Chairman, though not denying his political ambitions, said his leadership of the "Group of Eight" was not a bid to unseat his father. "We are not for any palace coup," Bird said. "We came together to affect policy... We feel there is a need to reshape the ministries and the party to make them more effective and efficient." He added: "In any political party there is a jockeying for position, and that has happened. But that is a matter that can and is being dealt with. We are a strong party."

Both the UNDP and the ACLM appear incapable of capitalising on the division.

"There is a high level apathy about," said one St. John's businessman. "People say they are dissatisfied with the Bird Government but they will not vote it out. And most of the young people are not bothered."

"The ACLM will readily

accept that it has not succeeded in altering the pro-imperialist concept of Antiguan," said Tim Hector, whose party had not been able to translate significant appreciation of its views to mass support and votes at election time. Some analysts question the ability the UNDP's Heath, a 60-year-old soft-spoken urbane surgeon and political new-comer, to the kind of passion they feel necessary to defeat Bird's ALP.

"My only real memory of Dr. Heath from the time I was a boy," said one young professional, "is hearing an announcement at Carnival time for him to leave the Antigua Recreation Grounds to attend an emergency at the Holberton Hospital."

The response is characteristic of ALP activists who have harped on Heath's middle class background and portraying the UNDP as the party for the elite.

In fact the UNDP is an amalgamation of the United Peoples Movement (UPM) a break away from the now almost dead Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) which held the government from 1971-1976, and the National Democratic Party (NDP).

"Dr. Heath is no more middle class and has no less commitment than any body in the ALP," said Deputy Party Leader Spencer.

To those who say that the Bird Government cannot be defeated, Baldwin said. "That is a distorted, defeatist, negative approach to the system."

DISSENSION IN ALP SPILLS OVER TO PARTY'S YOUTH ARM

Election Dispute

St Johns HERALD in English 22 May 87 p 1

[Text]

Efforts are being made to heal the rift which has developed within the ranks of the Youth Arm of the Ruling Antiguan Labour Party.

The rift, which has been simmering for some time broke into the open at last Sunday's 10th Convention of the Youth For Labour at the Police Sports Complex.

The convention ended prematurely with bitter debate over the conducting of elections to the top office of the organization.

Leroy 'Abuda' Barnes, who has been performing the duties as president for several years, was voted into the position ahead of newcomer Oswald Thomas by six votes.

But soon after the official declarations were made, Thomas launched a protest with the conductor of the elections claiming that 5 children

under 15 years voted in contravention to the constitution.

This was compounded when a misunderstanding developed over the election of the two Vice Presidents.

Attempts by Barrister Steadroy "Cutie" Benjamin to resolve the matter amicably failed when, Thomas who was chairman of the day's proceedings announced he was bringing the convention to an end following a noisy and heated debate.

Later, members of the Youth leadership met separately with members of the press to give their views on the matter.

One member, St. Clair Simon, who supported the candidacy of Thomas, at one time stated he was taking the matter before the courts to resolve. But he was persuaded to shelve

those plans and instead allow the party to decide on how best to solve this issue.

By Wednesday, a meeting took place between Thomas and Barnes to thrash out the matter and to arrive at an amicable solution.

Party Chairman, Hon. Lester Bird is said to be very concerned over the whole situation and he is believed to be planning to raise the issue at today's meeting of the party executive at its regular Friday afternoon meeting.

The dispute comes following a dynamic address to the convention by Mr. Bird who urged the youth to take their rightful place in the development of the country. During the week, Mr. Bird focussed attention on youth in the country.

Ex-Executive's Charges

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 May 87 p 4

[Text]

ST JOHN'S, May 19, CANA

The squabbling in the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) has spilled over to its youth arm which ended an acrimonious annual convention Sunday with charges of vote rigging after five of the seven executive members, including the president, were chosen from the constituency of Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird.

Former executive member Adolphus Simon charged that there was undue influence by senior politicians in the election of a new executive.

He and 12 other delegates had stormed out of the convention, forcing an early end.

"What you're seeing here is a part of a gang of the party sliding down in the youth group with the connivance and financial support of factions of the party," Simon said.

"Those type of attitudes only portray a sort of machiavellian type attitude of certain people where the ends justify the means - where trickery, deceit and corruption become a part of the organisation," he added.

Simon also alleged that pro-Bird supporters rigged the elections to give the Deputy Prime Minister "the towering strength" of the youth "to satisfy their selfish means."

President Leroy 'Abuda' Barnes and four other committee members are from Bird's Rural East constituency.

Simon was supported by the

losing candidate for the presidency, Oswald Thomas who claimed children under the age of 15 voted in the elections in contravention of the Constitution.

Under the Constitution of the youth arm, only persons between the ages 15 and 40 are eligible for election.

"I am going through the length and breadth of this country to tell all the youth members of the ALP and every youth member who intends to join the Labour Party youth arm, of the injustice, of the undemocratic procedure of this convention and I am going to tell them not to let this be a deterrent - to participate in the group and let us change the situation - let us rectify it," Simon said.

During the convention and prior to the elections, the delegates dismissed a motion by the St John's Rural South constituency of the Bird's elder brother Vere Bird Jr, which wanted to have two distinct delegations representing the constituency.

The convention dismissed the motion on the grounds that only one delegation of ten members could represent a constituency and also participate in the election process.

Simon was himself accused of fronting for Vere Bird Jr but denied this. "I refuse to be identified with any faction."

"It is my philosophy that the organisation is bigger than personalities."

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CSO: 3298/232

PAPERS CARRY CONFLICTING REPORTS ON LABOR DAY GATHERING

OUTLET Coverage

St Johns OUTLET in English 8 May 87 pp 1, 2, 11

[Text] On Labour Day, 1987, in the language of the annual contest, Blue and White "flopped" the Reds in terms of numbers, in terms of issues significant to working people in the course of the March. For the first time since 1976, the AWU-UNDP Trade Union party combination outnumbered the AT&LU-ALP Party Union combination in the annual Labour Day demonstration of strength. Neither demonstration was big, but the AWU-UNDP clearly had the greater number.

Most observers considered the ALP-AT&LU Labour Day March, as the smallest to have followed V. C. Bird certainly since he returned to power, and probably since 1969 after the momentous George Walter-Halstead split in the AT&LU.

The ALP-AT&LU Labour Day March had, as has become the practice, all the bands including the popular Burning Flames, Pyramid and Hammer International, and even this did not this year lift the ALP-AT&LU Labour Day March.

Hammer International, a popular band, had not a single soul dancing behind it in the ALP&ATLU Labour Day March!

Rocked by Scandal

Without a doubt, all observers agreed, the ALP and AT&LU were clearly hit, in fact, rocked by the V. C. Bird International Airport US\$11 million scandal, and by the recent collapse of the electricity system due to more corruption.

Several persons interviewed by Outlet, said that they could "not be seen with ALP in view of the airport scandal" or said some "You mean march with Bird with this light and water crisis. No way!"

The disarray in the ALP ranks was a clear sign of the disarray in the party, and normal ALP-AT&LU Labour Day organiser, Adolphus Freeland, seemed not to have recovered from the battering he took and gave himself when he resigned from the Bird Cabinet and then had to beg-back publicly through the back door at the beginning of this year. Thus it appeared that Freeland could not bring himself to the usual effort. He rode alongside the Burning Flames as if this were his new portfolio.

On the contrary the AWU-UNDP Labour Day March was well organised, with numerous slogans and placards--there was hardly one in the ALP-AT&LU march--and the crowd marched in orderly well organised fashion.

AWU leaders, went out of their way to assure that they were in charge, and not politicians, with President of the AWU for 20 years, Malcolm Daniel, clearly in the lead, and not UNDP political leaders. Malcolm Daniel himself led the crowd as they sang "We Are Not Afraid."

Among the slogans carried aloft, by the AWU-UNDP gathering were "Bird's \$30 million airport paved with Gold", "Bird with all his might cannot provide water and electricity". "We want a public Inquiry, not an Investigation". The AWU-UNDP march, emphasised by loud-speaker, that they were marching "against corruption, against the Industrial Court, against the taking away of 10 per cent of the hotel workers wages".

Towards the end of the AWU march, disappointed ALP supporters hassled marchers in the AWU-UNDP ranks, but the police took no preventive action. AWU Field Officer, Hutson Joseph, complained by loudspeaker about this, but to no avail.

WHINE UP

In contrast to the decorum of the AWU-UNDP march, the loudest slogan heard came from the bands in the ALP-AT&LU march was inane and distasteful lyric "I want to whine up on your battey" or "Whine your battey". This seemed to sum up the purpose and content of the March. It was "sad, very sad," said a Senior Civil Servant observing the Marches "to see musicians like the Burning Flames, allowing themselves to be politically used, when the steelbands have quit, leaving political rivalry to the politicians".

Prime Minister Bird, no longer walked in front of the ALP March, in concession to his age, but drove in a Police Security wagon at the head of the ALP March, grim faced for the most part.

His hope to have "a Big Labour Day" March had crash, and his expectation to have the Nedd Investigation which he said would have cleared his eldest son Vere Bird of any wrong-doing had vanished into thin air. In the words of the Herald "his best laid plans had gone awry."

Bird had hoped after his "big labour day march" and the expected clearing of his son former Minister of Public Utilities, Vere Runway Bird, by the Nedd Investigation from charges or corruption, conflict of interest and improper conduct in the US\$11 million Airport loan, he would have moved to an early Election by June 29. These plans were obviously upset, by the small ALP Labour Day demonstration, and more particularly, by the large number of people who spontaneously chose to wear yellow on Labour Day, as if saying, a plague on both your houses of Red and Blue and White.

LESTER NO.1

One significant feature of the ALP Labour Day Demonstration was the predominance of T-Shirts marked "Lester Bird is Number 1" in large bold letters, and then in smaller letters "in Rural East" signalled that Lester Bird was becoming or has become Numero Uno in the ruling ALP.

It probably brings to a new stage, the struggle for leadership in the ALP either to displace or succeed aging and declining PM Bird.

One ALP member said "that if Lester Bird were not V.C. Bird's son, and felt hemmed in by the father-son relation, a confrontation and final settlement would have already been reached". Lester Bird certainly held sway among the younger

demonstrators in the ALP Labour Day Demonstration.

One other factor which showed the growing dominance of Deputy PM Lester Bird was the diversion of the ALP Labour Day March off Market Street down Redcliffe Street, to the new St. John's Development Project which is considered Lester Bird's pet project. This diversion surely made the point that Lester Bird was associated with 'development' while "the others" to use the words of an ALP Spokesperson, who asked not to be named "are defending corruption at the airport and in electricity."

MOST STRIKING

Perhaps the most striking feature of the 1987 Labour Day was the appearance of former Premier George Walter in the motor division of the AWU-UNDP March, while his brother Selwyn Walter, former Minister of Trade in the Walter administration appeared with the Bird dynasty sporting a red cap. This switch and open division of the Walter clan emphasised to the public that there is no real difference between the contending parties, in that Selwyn Walter who himself defeated PM Bird in the 1971 Elections could join the Birdites without missing a step. This party, that

party, same pappy show.

The increased size of the AWU-UNDP Labour Day Demonstration did not see any defectors from the ALP camp, but seemed more a return of old faces moved by the Airport scandal and the Electricity water mismanagement which has symbolised, by graphic darkness, the Bird regime. Also notable in the AWU 1987 Labour Day March was the absence of the young, and the presence of some 100 Barbudans who came to Antigua to participate in the AWU-UNDP Labour Day Demonstration.

1987 Labour Day might well have marked the end of something. It might suggest that workers have become tired of the old rivalry, which has no meaning for them, and which does not advance the cause or solidarity of labour.

With talk of an Election in the air, the ALP-AT&LU had to be deeply disappointed with its showing on the road, and could hardly be heartened by the large crowd at Fort James, which clearly came for the feting, swamping the Reds. The small showing by the ruling ALP which normally attracts those who support the Party In Power, might well be a sign of the times. The times they are a changin'.

'Massive' ALP Support

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 9 May 87 p 1

[Text]

On Monday 4th May thousands of Antiguans and Barbudans don their red apparel and demonstrated with the Labour Movement through the streets of St. John's.

On a morning during which rain threatened and when scattered showers actually appeared thousands braved the inclement weather and marched to show their solidarity with the

Labour Movement and the economic and social progress which the Antigua Labour Party has brought to the country.

Brief addresses were made by Comrade Leader, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Comrade W. Robinson, President of the ATLU, to members and supporters gathered at the West Bus Station, where the march started.

Political observers were amazed at the very massive turn out of persons to show their support for the Labour Party. It was widely believed that with the frequent suppression of electricity and water, along with the in-fighting of some members of Cabinet, that the people, although satisfied with the economic progress of the country, would show their dis-approval of the above, by deliberately staying away from the march.

Members of Government were pleasantly amazed at the enormous size of the crowd, and the Opposition parties were just as amazed, but in consternation and disappointment as they expected the people to believe all the rumours which they have been spreading about corruption and nepotism in Government. They received a rude awakening. Their second in six months.

They recently mounted a national demonstration against

corruption in Government and were unable to muster just over two hundred persons. In spite of all this, supporters of the ALP and members of the ATLU have advised the leaders of Government not to take the Opposition lightly. They have stated that the people are giving the Ministers of Government a last chance to get their 'act' together or face the 'fire' next time.

The Executive Members of the Public Service Association, the UNDP and remnants of the PLM marched with the Antigua Workers Union.

Some observers have stated that this Labour Day March was the largest ever staged by the ALP/ATLU, but this newspaper believes that the march staged in 1975 was the largest ever held by Labour. There was standing room only at Fort James, where many more supporters joined the ranks of 'red' where they all spent an enjoyable afternoon.

/9274

CSO: 3298/232

ECONOMY CONTINUED TO GROW IN 1986, SAYS CDB REPORT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 May 87 p 9

[Text]

**Bridgetown, May 8,
CANA**

THE economy of Antigua and Barbuda recorded further growth during 1986, as a vibrant tourism industry boosted activity in construction and related sectors, the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) said in its 1986 Annual Report.

Both the private and public sectors invested heavily in tourism plant and associated infrastructure.

Public sector initiatives were most evident in the construction of the Deep Bay Hotel Complex, installation of the desalination plant and the 18 megawatt electric power plant, rehabilitation of the international airport, expansion of the telephone system and road rehabilitation.

Quoting official estimates, the CDB Report says that arrivals of stopover visitors increased by 6.8 per cent from 139,824 in 1985 to 149,332 in 1986. This rate of increase, though modest when compared with the trend earlier in the decade, nonetheless exceeded the overall rate of increase in stopover visitors to the region.

Average length of stay has remained stable over the past three years at 10.8 days. Because of the importance of tourism in the economy of Antigua and Barbuda, the authorities are taking measures to increase value added in the sector, through the expansion of hotel capacity and the development of down-town St. John's into a shopping and recreation centre mainly for tourists.

The recovery in agriculture was sustained throughout the year. Improved rainfall, large new investments in the sector, better marketing techniques and wider markets, led to significant increases in output and exports, especially of winter vegetables.

Output of sea island cotton increased and higher prices were realised, but production was constrained by marketing difficulties.

Livestock production increased, but domestic demand did not rise proportionately, because the industry could not supply the quality cuts demanded by the hotels.

The pace in manufacturing activity was much slower than that in agriculture, as a number of manufacturing enterprises either closed down or reduced their operations because of trade problems within CARICOM.

Commercial bank deposits rose by 18.2 per cent for the first nine months of the year, compared with 10.9 per cent during the same period in 1985, although average deposit rates fell by one percentage point.

At the same time commercial bank loans and advances expanded by 13.8 per cent, compared with 14.5 per cent in the same period of 1985. Personal loans and advances continued to dominate commercial bank lending, with loans to Government taking second place.

Some shifts in credit to the various sectors occurred, but the productive sectors received smaller portions of the total outlay, while Central Government resorted more and more to the local banking system to provide counterpart financing for its expanding capital expenditure programme. This did not affect the liquidity position of the banks, which were able to hold excess cash reserves with the Central Bank.

Official data on prices are not available for 1986, but it is estimated that the cost of living increased by about 2 per cent, in contrast with 0.9 per cent in the previous year.

Available statistics in Central Government operations show a

marked improvement on current account in 1986. The deficit of 2.8 million dollars in 1985 was transformed into a surplus of 1.7 million dollars, the first since the 1960s. This surplus was achieved by a combination of strategies, heavily biased towards improved revenue performance.

Recurrent revenue expanded by 31.5 per cent, while recurrent expenditure increased by 19.5 per cent. Expenditure was kept in check by a slow-down in wage increases as well as by the practice of maintaining arrears on some items of external debt. Nonetheless, arrears fell from an estimated 5.8 million dollars in 1985 to 4.6 million dollars in 1986.

However, total external arrears (government direct and government guaranteed) increased from 24.9 million dollars in 1985 to 31.1 million dollars in 1986.

Government has taken steps to initiate discussions with external donors in early 1987 on the rescheduling of debt. At the same time, capital expenditure quadrupled from 5.4 million dollars in 1985 to 22.9 million dollars in 1986.

In consequence, the overall deficit rose from 10.1 million dollars to 17.6 million dollars or to 18.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Government secured external financing for the bulk of this capital expenditure.

Prospects for 1987 are generally good. Although no improvement is expected in the manufacturing sector, agriculture should register further gains as the new marketing initiatives taken in 1986 are fully exploited.

Construction and tourism should see continued expansion. Government revenue should continue to improve, but the untenable arrears situation and recent over-extension in external financial markets remain problematic.

CIVIL SERVANTS UNHAPPY WITH GOVERNMENT WAGE OFFER

St Johns HERALD in English 15 May 87 p 3

[Text]

The Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association, the organisation representing Civil Servants, is unhappy with government's plans to give established workers a 45 percent increase over a three-year period.

In its latest newsletter, the ABPSA said that civil servants should not settle for less than the 75 percent increase reported to have been approved for parliamentarians.

According to the ABPSA "Government's unilateral decision to give the increase shows that the negotiations of the Establishment Division were nothing but a sham and a farce".

"The ABPSA did well not to have taken part in that bogus affair," it added.

The ABPSA wants what

it termed "real negotiations" to take place between government, its workers and their representatives. It noted that the entire Civil Service needs to be properly classified according to job functions, training, education, experience and responsibilities.

Personal connections, political affiliation and

other "spurious criteria" should not be used to determine what salaries persons are paid, it said.

Meanwhile, the ABPSA has announced its itinerary for the month of May. The events include participating in the AWU's 20th anniversary march and rally as well as the ABAAO's African Liberation day March and Rally.

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CSO: 3298/232

CHARGES AGAINST FORMER MINISTER HALSTEAD DROPPED

St Johns HERALD in English 15 May 87 p 1

[Text]

The Antigua and Barbuda Government, citing lack of sufficient witnesses, has dropped charges of misbehaviour in public office against former Government Minister, Donald Halstead.

The formal order was made in the St. John's High Court on Tuesday when hearing resumed on a constitutional motion in which Halstead was seeking to have indictable charges against him dropped.

By consent, lawyers appearing for Halstead and the Government agreed to

discontinue hearing of the motion before Justice Albert Redhead, as well as the substantive criminal charges.

Halstead was cited for fraud, as a result of a commission of inquiry, into the misappropriation of funds by the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) administration, of former Premier George Walter, eight years ago.

Halstead is currently a member of the year-old United National Democratic Party, (UNDP) of Surgeon, Ivor Heath.

He said he was hoping to contest the next general elections, which he

expected some time in June.

Halstead was represented in the case by Dr. Fenton Ramsahoye of Trinidad and Tobago, Henry Forde of Barbados, along with Bernice Lake, Gerald Watt, Al James and Colin Derrick of Antigua.

Two Trinidad lawyers, Karl Hudson-Phillips and Valerie Alcala along with Crown Council Gairy Collins appeared on behalf of the Government.

Acting Prime Minister, Lester Bird said the dropping of charges against Mr. Halstead is an indication that justice is alive and well in Antigua.

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CSO: 3298/232

CONCERNS VOICED OVER U.S. 'TROOP' PRESENCE

British Comments

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 10 May 87 pp 3, 10

[Text]

Belmopan - May 5 N.H.

A visiting Conservation member of Parliament, Mr. David Crouch (Centerbury) has said he is confident that Britain will continue to maintain troops in Belize for the defence of Belize as long as it is necessary or until the problem over the Guatemalan claim to Belize is resolved.

But he cautioned that there is a long-term risk in the presence of American troops in Belize.

"The British Government", he said, "is not happy about the situation of American troops being in Belize."

Mr. Crouch was referring to the presence of 120 United States Army Engineers who are engaged in a bridge-building

project under USAID auspices. Earlier this week the small U.S. band of soldiers began to leave Belize after spending nearly nine weeks erecting the Mullins River Bridge in north Stann Creek.

A Belize Ministry of Defence source disclosed this week that there are a hundred more bridges already in Belize waiting to be assembled. They are small World War II surplus stock, ideally suited to Belize rural conditions. It is understood that the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers have expressed an interest in doing more of this kind of work in Belize.

Mr. John Crosby, British High Commissioner to Belize, was

asked about the British view of having U.S. army personnel in Belize.

"The worry" he said, "is a long term worry. We get constant sniping from the left wing in the British Parliament about our relations with the U.S. Forces in Belize. We do not want a position where the British forces in Belize could be implicated in a situation where the presence of American troops in Belize can draw us into the Central American conflict."

It is important, Mr Crosby said, to isolate the Belize position and to point out that British Forces in Belize are here to defend Belize against Guatemala.

Under the terms of the British Defence Agreement with Belize, the British Government must be consulted on the presence of any other foreign troops in Belize.

Asked about the prospect of a continued American military presence to continue similar bridge projects, the British High Commissioner said: "I know they have ideas, but under the terms of the defence agreement, we must be consulted. So far, we have not been," he said.

U.S.-Base Rumor

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 17 May 87 p 6

[From regular "Dick & Jerry" column]

[Text] The U.S. armed forces who came to build a bridge seem to have muddied the water. Their extra-curricular activities, we learn, forced their commander to go home prematurely. The guy's lip had lost its button. if it ever had one, for with a few drinks in, he was all over the place declaring his wish to establish a U.S. Base in Belize. Add to this the U.S.\$100,000 for radio equipment in P.G. and Dick reckons that he understands Crosby's anxieties at the U.S. military presence in Belize. "The place is becoming a high risk target," mused Dick "for anti-U.S. freedom fighters."

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CSO: 3293/233

TRADE WITH PRC, SOUTH KOREA, PRC-TRIP FUNDING CITED

Bilateral Accords

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 3 May 87 pp 1, 13

[Text]

Mainland China has agreed to buy a thousand tons of Belize sugar a year at a price which is some 30 per-cent higher than the world market price.

Britain by contrast buys 50 times as much, and at a price which is more than twice the price China is paying, but selling Belize sugar to Red China is the thin edge of the wedge which hopefully will lead to better returns in the future.

China agreed to buy the sugar

as part of a goodwill package with Belize after Belize chose to recognize the People's Republic of China instead of Taiwan.

China will provide Belize with a development grant of some \$100,000 along with a low interest long-term development loan amounting to nearly \$3 million.

China has also initialled an agreement covering a range of bi-lateral issues which include the possibility of Belize/Chinese joint ventures in the area of deep sea fishing and light industry.

South Korea has also signed a bi-lateral agreement with Belize pledging technical and economic co-operation. South Korea has presented Belize with a gift of \$400,000 worth of all kinds of equipment made in South Korea.

ROK Help With Trip Cost

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 10 May 87 pp 1, 12

[Text]

Prime Minister Esquivel told a press conference on Wednesday morning that it was the South Koreans who paid for his trip to Communist China last month. The Prime Minister took along his wife, Foreign Minister Barrow and the Director of the

Office of Economic Development Mrs. Hyde, at the South Korean expense. The People's Republic of China does not recognise South Korea and maintains relations only with the Kim II Sung Government of North Korea. So the South Koreans are not a little peeved to discover that they paid for a delegation to

visit China

When asked whether he had received the \$3 million from China, the Prime Minister said no. That will have to await until a suitable infrastructural project was put forward and approved by the Chinese, he said. He allowed that such a project would have to be "A People's Project".

GUATEMALAN POSITION IN TERRITORIAL DISPUTE HARDENS

Pre-Miami Talks

Belize City THE BEACON in English 9 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Text]

AT last the efforts of the Esquivel administration to bring about meaningful talks with the Guatemalan Government look like being rewarded.

That was the thought at the back of the minds of most political observers, as Foreign Minister Dean Barrow and his delegation left for last Wednesday's meeting in Miami with a Guatemalan delegation led by their own Foreign Minister Lic. Mario Quinonez.

The other members of the four-man Belize delegation were Opposition Leader Florencio Marin, U.S. Ambassador Edward Laing and William Tillett, Permanent Secretary in the Defence Ministry.

The stated purpose of the Miami talks was to allow Guatemala to present new proposals for a

solution of the border dispute between the two countries.

A Government Information Service (GIS) release, issued following the return of the Barrow delegation and a meeting in Belmopan of the Bipartisan Committee on the Guatemalan Committee, said that "the meeting took in a frank and friendly atmosphere, even though the positions of the two countries were far apart."

Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel echoed these same thoughts at his monthly news conference held at Belize Radio One Studios on Wednesday morning.

"Far apart" could only mean that the Guatemalans want land cession as part of the settlement, some-

thing that Belmopan will never agree to.

However, the hard line coming from Guatemala looks less like a deliberately aggressive stance towards a solution, than a sign of immobility in Guatemalan foreign policy at a time of a civilian leadership facing a hostile military and right wing extremists.

The most significant aspect of this preliminary round of talks is that Guatemala has not reslammed the door on further meetings.

The GIS release said that it was agreed to continue the talks in the future in search of a solution; and that Belize will put forward an agenda which could form the basis for future discussions.

Esquivel Remarks

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 10 May 87 pp 1, 16

[Text] Belize City, Thursday, 6 May--New Guatemalan proposals presented last Wednesday to Belize's Foreign Minister Dean Barrow during a one-day session in Miami demonstrated how badly out of step with reality the Vinicio Cerezo government is by going back to dead-and-buried pre-independence proposals requiring Belize to give up land as a concession for settlement of the dispute.

An official announcement from Belmopan today states that the two countries were far apart in their respective positions.

"The meeting took place in a frank and friendly atmosphere," the Belize communique reads. "Even though the positions of the two countries were far apart, it was agreed to continue the talks in the future in search of a solution."

The statement added that Belize has put forward an agenda which could form the basis for future discussions.

Belize's delegation was led by the Foreign Minister, Mr Dean Barrow and included the Leader of the Opposition Mr Florencio Marin, the Ambassador to the United States, Mr Edward Laing and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Mr William Tillett.

The British delegation present at the talks was led by Mr David Joy of the British and Commonwealth Office. Guatemala's delegation was led by her Foreign Minister, Mario Quinonez.

Reports in the British Press say the Guatemalan proposals surprised the British, being simply a rehash of old proposals which have already been rejected.

Yesterday at his press conference the Prime Minister Mr Esquivel commented on the Guatemalan proposals saying Belize will never agree to any proposal which involve the giving up of land.

Asked how far apart the two countries' positions are, the Prime Minister replied:

"I would say very far apart...Guatemala is still proposing territorial cession--something that we will never agree to...The position is that the Guatemalans have gone back ten years in their proposals.... That has been very disappointing, I think, to all people concerned.... Certainly the statements of the Guatemalan President have been very much contradicted by proposals put forward" (by his own Foreign Minister).

Referring to the surprise caused in Belize and British circles, the Prime Minister said: "I think the difficult is that it is very difficult for us to

assess the internal situation in Guatemala and the relative strength of the military and civilian regimes.... Certainly our position now is that Belize cannot be expected to believe public statements which are contradicted by private statements."

"We will have to consider the private statements as the true position of Guatemala," the Prime Minister said.

Barrow Post-Miami Comments

Belize City AMANDALA in English 15 May 87 p 10

[Text]

BELMOPAN, Wed. May 13

Foreign Minister Dean Barrow returned home over the weekend after representing Belize at the 13th Meeting of Caricom Foreign Ministers held in Georgetown, Guyana on May 7th and 8th.

As outgoing Chairman of the Caricom Foreign Ministers, Mr. Barrow delivered the main address at the opening session of the meeting. In his remarks he made reference to the recently held talks with Guatemala and false news reports of Belize accepting garbage from the United States.

On the talks with Guatemala Minister Barrow said in part, "Regrettably, the territorial pretensions of the Republic of Guatemala appear to have hardened with the advent of a civilian government. Belize must now confront a situation in which a legitimate Guatemalan government gains increasing goodwill from the international community on the basis of its putative democratic credentials. This same government, however, continues to insist on a truncation of Belize's sovereignty that would mean a complete denial of Belize's own democratic right to self-determination and territorial inviolability.

"The time may thus have come for Belize, with the help of Caricom, to launch a new demarche of her own. Such an initiative would seek to expose and reject the contradiction inherent in the position of the Guatemalan government."

Minister Barrow told his colleagues after referring to the garbage barge, "We need to prepare ourselves to resist the onslaughts from outside that threaten our dignity and insult our sovereignty. We need to resist the blandishments, born of arrogance, that suggest that because we are poor and exist at times in dire circumstances, we are easy prey to the promise of get-rich-quick schemes and questionable, sometimes offensive, undertakings. We need to order our affairs in a dignified manner, preserving the integrity of our sovereignty and the trust of our constituencies."

At the end of their meeting the Caricom Foreign Ministers issued a communique which addresses several international and regional issues. Of particular interest to Belize, the Caricom Foreign Ministers have again called on the "Government of Guatemala to take positive steps to recognize the independence of Belize on the basis of the principles of sovereignty, equality and mutual respect." Furthermore, they agreed "to resist any and all overtures from Guatemala to establish diplomatic relations until the Government of Guatemala recognizes Belize."

The Foreign Minister of Guyana, Comrade Rashleigh Jackson, has succeeded Mr. Barrow as the Chairman of the Caricom Foreign Ministers. The next Caricom Foreign Ministers meeting is scheduled to take place in Trinidad & Tobago May 6th and 7th, 1988. (GIS)

Upcoming Belize Proposals

Belize City AMANDALA in English 29 May 87 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Fri. May 29

A reliable source has informed us that in an interview broadcast over the Voice of America yesterday, Belize Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Manuel Esquivel stated that when the talks with Guatemala resume, the Belize government will be making suggestions towards a solution of the impasse.

The Guatemalan talks were suspended a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. Esquivel also stated that his government's position is that they wish to hear Guatemalan suggestions.

When the talks broke off last month in Miami, indications were that Guatemala had commenced again to demand Belize territory, a position the republic appeared to have been withdrawing from over the last few years. Mr. Esquivel said it seemed Guatemala was turning back the hands of time ten years.

Indications are that Guatemala, isolated in the international community in the late 70's because of human rights violations, was feeling encouraged by the public relations successes of the civilian Cerezo government, encouraged enough to resume a hard line position on Belize.

Mr. Esquivel denied so-called "media reports" that Guatemala had walked out of the talks, and said the two countries had agreed to meet again in three months time. The Prime Minister said Belize is willing to discuss Guatemalan access to the sea.

Mr. Esquivel is quoted by VOA as saying that Belize supports the Central American peace plan of the Costa Rican government, but he was quoted as being not optimistic for its success because of his belief that Nicaragua's position towards Costa Rica and Guatemala had hardened.

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CSO: 3298/233

ESQUIVEL DISCUSSES CURRENT ISSUES AT NEWS CONFERENCE

Belize City AMANDALA in English 8 May 87 p 3

[Article by R. Perdomo]

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 6

In his usual cool way and in a more relaxed atmosphere, Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel met the press for the second time this year.

In his opening remarks he announced that beginning next week Thursday, the Tower Hill Sugar Factory will begin to produce plantation white sugar for local consumption. This will benefit the farmers and the country. The farmers will receive a better price for their cane and the country will save on foreign exchange, explained Mr. Esquivel.

Asked by this reporter as to the statement that the governments of Belize and Guatemala are far apart in the negotiations concerning the Guatemalan claim to Belize, Prime Minister said that "we are ten years apart". The Guatemalans wanted territorial concessions and we cannot agree to that. It would seem, remarked Mr. Esquivel, that we must believe the private statements made

by the Guatemalans and not the public ones, as the statements made by them were very controversial.

On the \$3 million loan made to Belize by China, the P.M. said that the Capital Project has not been identified. Asked about the possibility of building a badly needed new prison, he remarked that he does not believe the Chinese would not like to invest in such a project.

Another point of great interest was the new road going south. A new paved road going to Dangriga would cost a lot of money and that is not possible in the near future.

Members of the press were informed about various other topics, including a new National Lottery Ordinance which will be introduced to the House of Representatives at its next sitting.

Petrojam, the New Terminal Building, the New University of Belize Building, the increase of salaries for various government workers were all discussed.

The press conference was conducted in a very cordial and informative manner. And so ended another of the Prime Minister's quarterly meetings with the press.

GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN SOUTHERN AIR TRANSPORT FLIGHT QUERIED

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 3 May 87 p 10

[Text]

Amid recurring reports (which are always officially denied) that Belize is being used as a staging point for the transshipment of arms to the Contras in Nicaragua, another Southern Air Transport plane arrived and took off from the Belize International Airport.

A concerned citizen was able to obtain a photo of the plane as it took off at about 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday April 15, from the Belize International Airport.

No official explanation has been forthcoming, to explain the presence of Southern Air in Belize.

It is now a documented fact that Southern Air Transport has

been engaged in gun-running operations on behalf of the U.S. (C.I.A.). The Tower Commission Report (John Tower, Chairman, Edmund Muskie, and Brent Scowcroft, members) which investigated the Iran/Contra affair, states in no uncertain terms that Lt. Col. Oliver North, a National Security Officer working from the White House, had by 1986 established a private secure communications network which coordinated the supply to the Contras of military equipment apparently purchased with funds from the Iran arms deal. One Mr. Secord was in charge of arranging the actual deliveries using at least in part Southern

Air Transport". (See page 60 of Report)

The Belize Government recently established diplomatic relations with the Sandinista Government of Nicaragua and his Excellency, Santiago Perdomo has been accredited as Belize's Ambassador to Nicaragua.

The presence of Southern Air in Belize raises serious concern as to whether the Belize Government is playing a cat and mouse game in the Central American crisis.

If so, this is certainly a dangerous experiment which could result in grave jeopardy to the peace and stability of Belize.

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CSO: 3298/233

EXPLOITABLE GOLD ORE DEPOSITS DISCOVERED, MINING CODE EXPECTED

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 10 May 87 pp 1, 16

[Article by Norris Hall and staff reporter]

[Text] Substantial deposits of gold, discovered in a remote area of the Mountain Pine Ridge, hold out the promise of better days for the economy and the people of Belize and for the family of Francis Gegg, the young man who pioneered the search and made the incredible discovery.

The discovery and the general location have been confirmed by government sources, but there appears to be disagreement with the size and economic importance of the newly discovered mineral wealth.

"There is a large deposit of gold in a remote area of our country. This gold deposit is estimated to be worth many, many millions of dollars".

The claim is made by local businessman Edgar Gegg, father of Francis Gegg, the amateur geologist and prospector who made the discovery more than a year ago and managed to make it one of Belize's best kept secrets.

Edgar Gegg, describing the discovery some time ago, expressed the view that "rough and conservative estimates have been made which put the gold deposits somewhere in the region of \$400 million."

Since then a number of geologists, including the Government geologist, Dr. Rau, have been to the location and have made surveys of the area. They have all reached the same conclusion, namely that exploitable gold reserves have been found, but with varying degrees of enthusiasm about its economic importance.

Mr. Edgar Gegg has said that because of the size of the deposits "we were obliged to report the result of our discovery to the Minister concerned, namely the Minister of Natural Resources."

The Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Dean Lindo, has since sought the services of an expert, and the government, it has been reliably reported, is now in the process of preparing a modern mining code.

Discovery of the gold deposits by Francis Gegg has now been substantiated by a reliable and authoritative source. But this same source has said that the claim of \$400 million is an "exaggeration".

Although the exact location of the rich mineral deposits is a well guarded secret, consistent reports say the gold ore deposits lie in a virtually inaccessible area called Ceibo Chico, among the quartz formations southwest

of the Maya Mountain Divide and south of the Vaca Plateau.

"This is a vast area of hill country", according to one surveyor who knows the area.

Mr. Francis Gegg has applied for a license to mine this treasure trove, but the application has been held up because the government wants to make sure it has a body of laws which is capable of coping with this new and with future situations.

Dr. E. Walrond, a Guyanese geologist, is the mining consultant recruited by the Belize Government to assist in the drafting of the new mining code, which is now, or will soon be ready for presentation to the Belize House of Representatives. The code is expected to go a long way to insure government royalties and protect ancient monuments and artifacts from the ravages of mining operations.

Mr. Edgar Gegg today expressed surprise that the story of his family's great good fortune has

somehow got out. "I have not authorized anyone to give out this information", he said, "and certainly did not wish for the story to come out in that way". He did however confirm that the report of the discovery was "basically correct".

Francis Gegg, asked to confirm the report that he did in fact discover a rich field with substantial potential for mining applications, told the Reporter: "We have no idea at this time what the value of the deposits may be, although we do know that it is quite substantial... We have had the benefit of some expert opinion and we have taken samples for detailed analysis.."

The delay in getting mining operations under way, he said, was in part due to the government's perceived need to prepare new legislation to set out the ground rules for this and for future applications.

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CSO: 3298/233

AGRICULTURAL POLICY, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REPORTED

Ministry Booklet

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 10 May 87 p 11

[Text]

Belmopan, May 4: N.I.

Belize's Ministry of Agriculture has just released its new policy outlining the Government's policy on food and agriculture. The 72 page booklet came off the press on Monday and is being sold at \$10.00 a copy.

It outlines twelve objectives of the Ministry of Agriculture for the development of farming in Belize and outlines a general farm policy within the framework of the government's economic Development Plan.

The main objective of the Farm Programme as outlined in the new policy is to take advantage of the motivation provided by the free enterprise system "which minimizes restrictions on the free play of market forces" to provide for the most efficient use of the country's basic resources to compete more effectively with other market forces within the Caribbean region and beyond.

Speaking about this policy, Belize's Agriculture Minister Mr. Dean Lindo has said that the policy recognizes the fact that Belize can be "truly competitive on an export basis in many of our agricultural products, and that in order to be truly successful in commercial agriculture, efficiency in production and ade-

quate market identification and development are needed."

The policy examines and makes a number of recommendations for better markets for a number of crops, for livestock and for the encouragement of a diversified farm programme "to spread the risks that are inherent in any crop cultivation."

The policy notes that Belize Agriculture has, over time, evolved into a system which is inordinately dependent on a single commodity - sugar, and points out that whereas sugar has served Belize well in the past - it is not in the nation's long-term interests to concentrate its agricultural resources and entrust its export future to this or to any other one-crop effort that is subject to influence beyond Belize's control. For while sugar will remain important to Belize, and Belize will strive to increase its production efficiency actively seeking out alternative uses for sugarcane and making greatest possible use of its sugar by-products, the government will also be placing a high priority on diversification to spread the risks that are inherent in farm production and to develop alternative sources of farm income.

Toledo Project

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 31 May 87 pp 1, 6, 8

[Text]

Belize City. N.II.
UNDER a multi-million dollar
agriculture development scheme

some 50,000 or more acres of land in the Toledo District will be put to the plough in an ambitious new programme developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Agricultural Minister Dean Lindo made a brief reference to the plan earlier this month at the opening of the National Agricultural and Trade Show. This week, at the prompting of the Reporter, he told the full story.

The plan is part of a national farm and food drive recently approved by the Esquivel Government under which small farmers will be able to lease 50 acres plots of land to be used as small farms. The farming families - one to each 50 acre farm, will be expected to move away from the traditional "slash and burn milpa system" and settle down to some serious farming tilling of the soil, rotation of crops and even mechanized harvesting in the case of grain.

In short the aim is improved farming efficiency for better land use, increased production and a higher standard of living among rural communities.

This huge project was conceived by the International Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD and drawn up for it by Projecto International Inc., Toledo was chosen as the logical place after an identification mission from IFAD recognized that there was an amplitude of deep fertile ground.

In practical application, these 50 acres farms will be concentrated near some of the

larger villages in the south. Toledo has about 1,700 square miles of rolling and mountainous land, and about a thousand square miles of this is good farm country, suitable for most types of cultivation, as shown by a recent land use survey of the area.

IFAD, the International Fund for Agricultural Development is so enthusiastic about the project it has agreed to put in \$5 million Bze over a five year period. The money will be used to improve marketing facilities, especially the existing grain complex at Big Falls and to establish a farm credit programme through the Development Finance Corporation. Under the plan the Ministry of Agriculture is to take an active interest and actively supervise it through its agricultural extension programme.

Farmers, for their part, will be expected to adopt the new farming methods, use mechanized equipment and in general get the best out of the land. Since the bulk of the farmers are expected to be Ketchi and Maya Indians who have had no previous experience with mechanized equipment, a considerable training programme is envisaged.

So far there are no clear indicators to say just when the project will get off the ground, but the basics of the plan have already been approved.

Encouraging reports of Belize's success in selling red kidney beans to Jamaica is expected to provide added stimulus to the programme, although traditionally Toledo farmers prefer to grow rice and corn.

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CSO: 3298/233

BRIEFS

LABOR DAY CEREMONY--A ceremony in Independence Hall Belize City, organized by the People's United Party, marked Labour Day 1987 in Belize. Representatives from labour and management were present to honour the workers of Belize and the world. The Master of Ceremonies was Mr Steve Latchman and main speakers were Chairman Said Musa and Party Leader George Price. The speakers congratulated the Belizean workers for their contribution to the struggle of the political independence of Belize with sovereignty over its territory. They recalled that much had been done by the peaceful, constructive revolution on labour's behalf by passing good labour laws and creating employment. The new phase of the revolution was passing through a period not favourable to labour unions. Many workers lost their jobs. Others were intimidated by victimization. The work must go on continuing the build Belize and to strengthen the labour movement. After the national anthem and the national prayer, refreshments were served. [Text] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 10 May 87 pp 1, 5] /9274

PUP RALLY--Hundreds of Belizeans of Corozal District on Sunday, May 3rd rallied to the People's United Party. They met in the Capri Hall to support Belize's revolution as the speakers explained its principles and policies and discussed the problems which now confront Belize. There were addresses by Chairman Said Musa, Messrs C. L. B. Rogers, Javier Berbey Garcia, Santiago Rosado, and Lloyd Carrillo. The closing address was given by the Hon Florencio Marin, Parliamentary Leader; and the guest speaker was Party Leader George Price. The people of Corozal District suffer economic set-backs with the closure of the Libertad Sugar Factory. In June of 1985, many of them demonstrated in Belize City to protest its closure and to call on the government to reopen the factory. The PUP protested the recent proposal made by government during the budget debate in Belmopan to impose taxation on border crossings of people and vehicles and stated that they would be removed by a PUP government. [Text] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 10 May 87 pp 1, 5] /9274

RISE IN EXTERNAL DEBT--Prime Minister Esquivel has asked the House of Representatives to approve a loan of BZE \$24 million (US\$12 million) to upgrade the telecommunications system and to purchase Cable and Wireless. The House was also asked at its sitting last Friday in Belmopan, to agree to wipe off debts owed to Government by the Belize Telecommunication Authority BTA. The loan which is to be provided to Government by the Barclays Bank of Canada will further increase Belize's external Debt by an additional \$24 million bringing

it to a high of \$232 million. With the loan government intends to purchase expansion and modernization equipment from TELECOMS of Canada for BTA. A company has been formed to take over Cable & Wireless as well as BTA. "For the time being" Government will be owning 51 percent of this company and will be selling to certain private shareholders 49 percent. Mr Esquivel has suggested that he intends eventually to sell out the entire operations. [Text] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 31 May 87 p 1] /9274

EXTERNAL RESERVES--At the end of the first quarter of the current year Belize's approved external reserves reached an unprecedented \$73,617,000 Bze., the highest it has ever gone. The Belize Central Bank reports that during this quarter government domestic indebtedness, which includes advances to the Belize Government and government Treasury Bills, declined from the 23.6 million of a year ago to 14.1 million at the end of April, 1987. Belize currency--notes and coin in circulation--increased from \$29.15 million last year to 33.70 million this year. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 31 May 87 p 8] /9274

CSO: 3298/233

BOLIVIA

EFE CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON ECONOMIC SITUATION

PY062007 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1825 GMT 5 Jun 87

[Report by Erick Torrico]

[Text] La Paz, 5 Jun (EFE)--The Bolivian Government is trying several ways to alleviate the difficult economic situation the country is experiencing in view of the possibility that the Treasury may run out of funds since the international financial channels are closed.

Both political and economic observers have noted that once again and for an indefinite period of time, this situation will bar the implementation of the Production Reactivation Program announced by the executive branch in November 1986.

The National Treasury finds itself unable to meet all its obligations, particularly the payroll of civil servants, because Argentina has not paid for its purchases of natural gas from Bolivia.

Since last year and up to April of this year, Argentina owes Bolivia more than \$50 million. That country has not yet disbursed the \$26 million that it offered to pay Bolivia early in June.

Experts have revealed that nearly 30 percent of Bolivia's annual budget is financed with the sale of gas to Argentina. This is what has prompted La Paz authorities to seek new markets for Bolivian gas, such as Brazil and Chile, anticipating the possibility that Argentina may stop its gas purchases or may make purchases at increasingly lower prices.

Rolando Morales, who has several times been president of Bolivia's Economists College, pointed out that the second problem afflicting the Paz Estenssoro government is the lack of a steady inflow of external credits to provide sufficient financial backing to implement the reactivation program.

Morales said that although international organizations have offered to make loans, the money is not being disbursed, and, as an example, he cited the World Bank, which only disbursed \$4.0 million in 1986. He

indicated that should this situation continue, there will be new difficulties to consolidate the "new economic model" instituted in August 1985 and to attain an effective recovery of the Bolivian economy.

Leaders of the Democratic Left Revolutionary Movement, a split from the MNRI [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left] headed by former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, yesterday expressed their belief that the failure of the official economic policy is "imminent."

Official sources have announced that Finance Minister Juan Cariaga will in the next few hours travel to Washington to negotiate \$100 million in emergency credits with international financing organizations. Cariaga was in Washington 2 weeks ago to conduct a similar operation, the details of which were not revealed.

The finance minister affirmed yesterday that "the country's economic stability will not collapse, even if the Treasury temporarily finds itself with less than the budgeted resources." Minister Cariaga denied that there is a lack of liquidity or that such a lack might spell failure for the government's economic stabilization program. He asserted that the Central Bank has \$480 million in gross reserves and \$240 million in net reserves, and that the Treasury is now receiving resources from the application of the Tax Reform Law.

Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal expressed his confidence that the "new economic policy" will be valid for the next 25 years, because it is "a forward-looking policy" that is aimed at "liberating Bolivia from bureaucracy, corruption, and excessive state influence."

Some economists have expressed doubts about the real possibilities for the current economic plan to take hold and for the attainment of production recovery in the short or medium term.

On several occasions in the past 7 months, Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez Lozada announced the implementation of the reactivation program. In his latest declaration, Minister Lozada affirmed that the decree to that effect will be made known on 14 June.

A slight increase in the official and parallel dollar parity is now part of the picture in one of the most difficult periods of the Paz Estenssoro government since it came to power on 6 August 1985.

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CSO: 3348/365

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

FOREIGN DEBT PAYMENT--Planning Ministry authorities have reported that the foreign debt will be repaid during a 10-year period (including a 5-year grace period), according to the agreement reached with the Paris Club. The payment of the bilateral debt contracted with 15 countries will start on 30 June 1990. The Planning Ministry officials explained that Bolivia is not paying its debts with private banks or debts contracted by former administrations. The only debts that are presently being honored are the ones contracted with international organizations like the World Bank, the Andean Development Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, the River Plate Basin Development Fund, the FAR-IBRD, and others that have granted Bolivia long-term loans with low interest rates. [Text] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Jun 87 p 1] /9604

CUSTOMS TARIFFS NEGOTIATIONS--Carlos Prado, executive director of the Autonomous Association of Customs Warehouses [AADAA], has said that Bolivia is currently negotiating to obtain a rebate in Chilean port customs tariffs. Bolivian and Chilean officials met a few months ago to discuss this subject. On that occasion, AADAA presented the (PORTI) project asking for special treatment for Bolivian goods. Afterward, the two delegations signed a document, and today Bolivia is waiting for the Chilean Government to enact the appropriate law. This is what Carlos Prado said: [Begin recording] We have managed to obtain a nearly 40 percent rebate in taxes on our exports. I want to say that the pertinent documents have been signed, but we must wait for the Chilean Government to enact the law on the new tariffs. [end recording] In conclusion, Prado referred to the reorganization of his organization. He said that in all cases in which irregular procedures were found, those who were responsible for them would be placed at the disposal of court immediately. [Text] [La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Jun 87] /9604

GARCIA MEZA REPORTEDLY IN ARGENTINA--La Paz, 28 May (AFP)--Juan del Granado, a prosecution lawyer, reported here today that former de facto Bolivian President General Luis Garcia Meza (1980-81), who is being tried by the Supreme Court and has been banned from leaving the country, is now in Argentina. According to the lawyer, Garcia Meza, who is accused of murder,

violation of human rights, and misappropriation of public funds, has violated the Supreme Court ruling which bans him from leaving the country. Del Granado has asked the Supreme Court judges to urge the former president to return to Sucre, historical capital of Bolivia and seat of the Court of Appeals, and avoid setting a serious precedent that could undermine the authority of the judicial branch. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1404 GMT 28 May 87] /9604

CSO: 3348/365

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEES' FINDINGS VIEWED

Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 3 Jun 87 pp 30-39

[Text] For those who prefer to receive the bad news first, here is a piece: unless there is an about-face in the work methods of the National Constituent Assembly, the new charter will have about 500 articles, three times as many as the present Constitution, and a text almost as long as the novel "Dom Casmurro," by Machado de Assis. From all indications, it will be a detailed, obsessive constitution, replete with articles offering paradise at long range and more taxation now.

For those who want the good news first, the length of the constitution is not very important, because only an idiot would read it when he could be spending the time to reread Machado. The constitution should expand the rights of the citizen and curb the power of the police and the state interference in the lives of the people. It will give guarantees to unemployed workers. In addition, the federal government could lose a large part of the Gargantuan resources which it centralizes, mismanages and administers to form parliamentary majorities. Finally, for those who are afraid of spectres, the constitution will not establish a regime of the Left, much less ratify the authoritarian state constructed in 1964. "We will have a moderate constitution," declared Deputy Jose Thomaz Nono, PFL [Liberal Front Party], chairman of the Committee on Organization of the State. "It will reflect both the Congress and the society."

Practically speaking, the decisions of the Constituent Assembly point to a path--subject to many route changes before the final decisions. At this time, only the first phase of the discussions, the subcommittee debates, has been concluded. The proposals will now be submitted to 15 days of debate in the committees and will then be redrafted by the Committee on Systematization. The first floor debates will not begin until 4 months from now. At this pace, the ideas circulating now are only a first rough outline of the nation's new legal charter, which should only be ready, and voted on, in the beginning of December.

Futile Exercise

Most of the confusion created in the first months of proceedings of the Constituent Assembly is owing to an error in judgment by Mario Covas, PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] leader, who named parliamentarians to the left of his own party as reporters on the subcommittees. He wasted a good deal of

effort in the exercise and, in certain cases, such as that of agrarian reform, it was disastrous for the team, because a radical draft proposal would be ripped to shreds by a Center-Right coalition, aided by the providential absence of a congressman from the PMDB itself. Covas wasted cadres and positions unnecessarily, ignoring committees that were strategic for the citizens and apparently unimportant to the professional politicians. Thus, the PMDB did not put up much of a fight in the Subcommittee on the Family and the party paid the price, with the victory of the conservatives, who, in addition to voting down abortion, for any reason (even pregnancy resulting from rape), also closed Brazil's borders to the scientific advances in artificial insemination.

The errors by the PMDB leadership stemmed from the mistaken notion of Covas and of Ulysses Guimaraes himself that the PMDB was in a position to achieve a constitution similar to its own program. At a time when the party cannot even manage a finance minister who believes in the existence of a PMDB program, the strategy could mean serious defeats for the majority party when the proposals come to a vote and, above all, the party's constituents will be disenchanted to see their aspirations denied, simply because the citizens whom they elected lack the ability to negotiate. "Good sense will prevail," declared Ronaldo Costa Couto, minister-chief of the civilian household. Once the debates began in the Constituent Assembly, President Sarney became filled with anxiety over the disposition of this wealth of votes and, in the most difficult hours, he showed signs of following the example of Dom Pedro I, who wanted a constitution "worthy of me." In 1823, the emperor ordered the dissolution of the assembly which was drafting a charter for the nation, availing himself of the sword of the Marquis of Paraguana to this end. Throughout the last 2 months, whenever he has feared for his mandate, Sarney has dispatched messages to the PMDB by plane--Army Minister General Leonidas' Urutu--stating his disposition to take a firm stand. However, the debates in the subcommittees have demonstrated that, of all the dangers surrounding the Constituent Assembly, radicalism, leanings to the Left and all the other spectres frequently raised by Planalto Palace are of secondary importance. Actually, the greatest adversaries of such radicals as Deputy Fernando Gasparian (PMDB-Sao Paulo) have been moderates like his colleague Roberto Cardoso Alves, from the same party and the same state. "In this initial phase, the congressmen have been engaging in a test of strength," declared Senator Severo Gomez, of the PMDB. "Now the picture will change."

The clash of the moderates and leftists in the subcommittees has confirmed what was already known: the leftists in the Constituent Assembly number precisely one-third of the full body. The fact that, in 4 months of proceedings, the PMDB leadership failed to take notice of this indicates the real danger: Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, invested with his superpowers, has been slow to realize that it is vital to begin to seek a consensus on the constitutional text.

It is traditional to the collapse of democratic regimes that their constitutions failed to provide social conquests commensurate with the political conquests. The PMDB thought it would be much shrewder to give free rein to Deputy Ricardo Fiuza, chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense of the State, in his negotiations with the military ministers, while they also turned loose the PMDB's Joao Herrmann, on the Subcommittee on Nationality and Sovereignty. A country in which

the military would enjoy all the prerogatives granted by Fiuza and the unions and class associations would be fortified by Herrmann's ideals could have a lively regime, but it would hardly be democratic and enduring.

Vision of the Whole

In reality, the moderate bench is relying on the Constituent Assembly, with several factors in its favor. On one hand, it knows it can count on the automatic alignment of the Right (whereas the PMDB is aware that it will have difficulty winning the support of the extreme Left, particularly the PT [Workers Party]). Moreover, the moderates seem to be proceeding in the Assembly with a firm vision of the whole of the document which they will be producing.

The PMDB seems to be committed to a propagandistic vision of the labors; it would rather insert declaratory articles than design effective juridical formulas. For instance, it is typical of a declaratory constitutionalism to seek to ban liquor and cigarette advertising or to determine that land should be returned to the Indians, whereas the bench is unable to articulate a formula for the protection of the unemployed or agrarian reform. The blindness in relation to the whole has meant that, in the rounds of the subcommittees, a parliamentary absurdity has been created, with the approval, in one session, of a provision which would prohibit the government from subsidizing private educational institutions and, in another session, of a provision which would exempt all educational institutions from taxes. Thus, on one hand, the constitution would cut off the paths which permit the government to aid such institutions as the Pontifical Catholic universities and, on the other hand, would grant tax exemption even to the most commercial and unaccredited pre-college courses.

Family

Women's Rights Strengthened

From all indications, the Constituent Assembly will create a better world for Brazilian women. In a draft which is conservative from the standpoint of customs and modern in the defense of women's rights, the Subcommittee on the Family has opened the way for the elimination of the mass of legal entanglements which have kept women in the condition of second class citizens throughout the history of Brazil.

Unanimously approved in the Subcommittee, the draft proposal states that "rights and duties in conjugal relations, from the parental authority and the registration of children to the title to the couple's property and the administration thereof, shall be exercised by the man and the woman." This means the elimination of the financial patriarchy in which, by law, a woman cannot make purchases on credit without her husband's permission. At the end of the 20th century, the woman could achieve equality with the man in the administration of the couple's property. Above all, after representing about 38 percent of the country's labor force, women should become economically independent. "It is good that this will be stipulated by law, although it is a very old demand," declared actress Regima Duarte, star of moderate feminism on the TV Globo

series "Malu Mulher." "We have won one of the greatest victories of all time for women," said Deputy Eunice Micheles, PFL, who, in 1979, became the first woman to be seated in the Federal Senate.

Children of Jango and Sarney

In a more radical change, the family need no longer be based exclusively on marriage. In the subcommittee draft, marriage is only one form of family constitution. Concubinage, which has gone from a crime to a custom, assumes legal status. It is estimated that two out of every five Brazilian couples are united only by the laws of nature. This change--if it is retained in the constitution--will mean financial protection for thousands of women and, above all, the disappearance of the unwed mother and illegitimate child as social and legal entities. Currently, if a man begets a child with a woman and the two are not married, the father's name will appear on the child's birth certificate only if the father agrees to acknowledge it. This situation, which produces thousands of illegitimate children in the poorest classes of the population, has already led to at least one spectacular law suit, in 1983, when Noe Monteiro da Silveira, a Rio Grande do Sul cab driver, succeeded in having the court recognize him as the son of the late President Joao Goulart, to whom he bears a striking physical resemblance. There are very few cases in which a married man recognizes children begotten with another woman, as did President Jose Sarney's father, Appellate Court Judge Sarney de Araujo Costa, who had 3 children by Kiola, his legal wife, and 11 children by another woman, Anita, and acknowledged all of them. The new constitution would stipulate that the woman has the right to register the child with the father's name. If the father wishes to contest paternity, he must go to court. "If this draft is approved, all the law books will have to be rewritten," declared Professor Alvaro Villaca Azevedo, of the Law Faculty of the University of Sao Paulo.

No More Test-Tube Babies

Along similar lines, the Constituent Assembly is also discussing, in Brasilia, a recourse that, until the 1960's, was only talked about in whispers: the birth control pill. The government has been announcing since last year that it is prepared to initiate a family planning program--and has not done it. By decision of the Subcommittee, it is the responsibility of the state to guarantee all available means of birth control to women.

Again with regard to modern aspects, the new constitution could adopt a more progressive vision of the family, by means of a small change proposed for the machinery of divorce. Currently, a couple may ask for the dissolution of a marriage only after 3 years of legal separation. It is proposed to reduce the period to 2 years. The principal demand of the traditional divorce advocates was the elimination of the clause by which an individual could marry again only once, but this anachronism, which was invented in 1977, was revealed to be more solidly entrenched than was thought, and could remain in the constitution.

If the new constitution tends to be modern in dealing with the family and women's rights, it may also bear the marks of obscurantism, in accordance with the old tradition of Brazilian law, which always lags half a century behind

the customs. The Subcommittee report went backward on the issue of abortion. Whereas it is now permitted to interrupt pregnancy resulting from rape or threatening the health of the mother or child, the report denies even this possibility. Abortion is considered purely and simply a crime, although it is known that at least 3 million illegal abortions are performed in Brazil every year. "If this prevails, we are going to be back where we have always been: the rich women will continue to go to expensive, clandestine clinics, while the poor will continue to risk their health at the hands of exploitive physicians and charlatans," declared Deputy Cristina Tavares.

In the most astonishing decision and probably the most conservative of all the ideas approved in the subcommittees, it is proposed that all practice of artificial insemination be banned, despite the fact that, since 1984, some 30 children have been born in Brazil by virtue of this advance in medicine. "I am going to do everything possible to see that this is defeated," declared physician Milton Nakamura, who delivered the first Brazilian test-tube baby: baby girl Anna Paula Caldeira, now aged 2 years and 8 months. "They are disregarding the anguish of a woman who is unable to conceive a child."

[Box, p 32]

Innovations

- A woman will have the same rights as the man in the family;
- Marriage will no longer be the only form for the constitution of a family;
- The unwed mother and the illegitimate child will no longer constitute legal entities;
- Divorce may be obtained after 2 years of separation;
- The government is responsible for guaranteeing family planning;
- Abortion will be prohibited in all cases, even in those authorized by law today; for example, a woman who has become pregnant as the result of rape;
- All forms of artificial insemination are prohibited.

Regime

Parliamentarism Remains to be Settled in Full Session

If there are issues in which the labors of the subcommittees have indicated a trend as to what the new constitution will be, for example, with regard to women's rights, there are others which are far from being defined. In a country where the length of the president's mandate is not known, even less is known about what type of executive branch will emerge in the new constitution and it is certain that both issues will only be settled after lengthy battles in the Committee on Systematization and in full session.

According to the Subcommittee's draft, Sarney and his successors should serve for 5 years and would preside over a state governed by a hybrid parliamentarist

regime. This trend derives from two factors. One is the sympathy for parliamentarism demonstrated by more than half the Constituent Assembly members in surveys conducted of the full body. The other is the inclination to utilize parliamentarism as a timely "dribble" to get around political crises caused by the weakness of the president, as already occurred, unsuccessfully, in the parliamentarism of the Joao Goulart administration, in which Tancredo Neves served as prime minister.

The draft approved in the Subcommittee, based on the proposed draft authored by Senator Jose Fogaca (PMDB-Rio Grande do Sul), is a baroque piece of work, designed to prevent the president from becoming a queen of England and to enable the parliament to broaden its powers over the government. Fogaca conceived a complicated process for dealing with possible conflict between the Congress and the president and, for the first time since the Empire, a parliamentarist proposal provides for the possibility of dissolving the Chamber. As reported, the draft provides that the president will retain the prerogative of appointing the three military ministers, the chief of the civilian household and the foreign minister. "With this arrangement, we will have a parliamentarism of the sixth minister," joked jurist Miguel Reale Junior, who observed that that, with this mechanism, the prime minister will be too weak from the outset.

Ugly and Stupid

All the proposals for hybrid parliamentarism can be summed up in the historic dialogue between actress Sarah Bernhardt and writer Bernard Shaw. She proposed to him that they have a child "with my beauty and your intelligence." Shaw turned down the offer, fearing that the child would have "my looks and your brain." Senator Fogaca believes that the Subcommittee's draft combines the virtues of the parliamentary and presidential systems. His adversaries are certain that it has locked in the defects.

President Sarney wants a 5-year presidentialist term. Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the PMDB, and Senator Marco Maciel do not like parliamentarism. This is a topic that could undergo revision at each phase of the process until the final battle on the floor.

[Box, p 33]

Innovations

- The constitution would create a parliamentarist regime;
- The president would serve a 5-year term and the vice president would be eliminated;
- The president would appoint the military ministers, the minister-chief of the civilian household and the foreign minister;
- Congress would approve the appointment of the prime minister and members of his cabinet;
- The Chamber could remove a cabinet officer and the president would appoint a replacement. If two names were proposed and both were rejected, the president

would select a third name from among three offered by the Chamber. If the Chamber did not submit a list of three names, the president could dissolve the Chamber and call for new elections.

Civil Rights

The great moments in the history of a country's constitutional law are experienced when the Constitutional Assembly members debate and revise the chapters on individual rights and guarantees. The Constituent Assembly of 1987 could maintain that tradition; the subcommittees have produced a lengthy draft, occasionally confusing and, in many cases, demagogic and unworkable, but essentially libertarian. A trend has clearly been defined in favor of civil rights and liberties, expanding the citizens' ability to intervene in the life of the country and, on the other hand, limiting the power of the state over the individual.

In a historic innovation, it is planned to create a form of direct popular participation in the political process. Thus, all constitutional amendments approved with two-fifths of the Congress opposed could be submitted to a popular referendum. In another aspect, formulated in a ridiculous way, a petition signed by 15,000 voters would oblige the Congress to vote on a bill or, with 30,000 signatures, to vote on a constitutional amendment. The absurdity of this proposal lies in the fact that a congressman such as Sao Paulo's Guilherme Afif Domingos, who was elected with 500,000 votes, requires the support of another 100 congressmen to present a draft amendment. It is also proposed that the electorate be given the power to cassate legislative mandates, through the creation of the "vote to unseat," to be regulated in the future in a complementary law.

This whole notion of the direct participation of the electorate in political decisions is viewed today by students of constitutional law as jewelers view iron pyrites, "fool's gold." At first glance, direct action by the citizens by means of petition appears democratic. Beneath the varnish, however, such mechanisms reflect a basic lack of confidence in the system of representative democracy. Even with its arithmetical aberrations and its dubious concepts, however, it will be difficult to eliminate the theme of direct participation entirely from the new charter.

Fewer Reservations

Throughout, the draft proposal on rights and guarantees could be considered a symphony in frenzy, if judged by its excesses. Basically, however, it is a document effectively designed to give the Brazilian citizen what he has been demanding: more rights and more guarantees. Regarding the right to demonstrate and to associate, it permits strikes, marches, rallies, neighborhood associations and civilian bodies, paring away the reservations that have filled past constitutions. Having done this, however, the draft attempts to take a giant step and thus join in the frenzied symphony by proposing that, in future, the law will stipulate the manner of selection, by vote, of "the agents of public power in executive positions directly related to the daily life of the community,

such as housing and sanitation, health and social security, education, transportation, security and supply, among others." This passage is indicative of the mental derangement that accompanied the libertarian spirit of the Subcommittee. To use the expression "among others" in a constitutional text is semantically absurd and politically frivolous.

Reflecting a state of spirit much more than a careful consideration of the constitution, the Subcommittee on Political Rights attempts to combat malfeasance, proscribing "crimes against the popular economy, the ecology and public administration." As if this were not enough, those convicted of crimes of this type, as well as of "Wrongful acts or irresponsible indebtedness," would become ineligible for reelection. The fury against poor administration is also expressed in a provision calling for the criminal prosecution of officials who transfer funds allocated for social purposes to any other end.

In this regard, the draft is an exercise in authoritarianism in the name of democracy. After all, it is Brazilian tradition that, if a citizen is convicted of any crime whatever, all his rights will be restored to him once he has served his sentence. However, this authoritarian draft not only denies eligibility for election to those convicted but also attacks one of the most valuable instruments of traditional Brazilian law: amnesty. The draft proposal establishes that torture is a crime for which "amnesty is inadmissible," thus introducing, for the first time in Brazilian history, the idea that a person convicted of a political crime can be denied amnesty. At the same time, however, the bill establishes that the victims of torture have a right to indemnification.

Correct Information

Reflecting at once libertarian intent, a lack of familiarity with legislative technique, some hostility to proper Portuguese usage and a propensity toward Jacobinism, the draft proposal creates real bedlam when it deals with freedom of expression. In a monumental failure of editing, it states that "there are individual rights and guarantees with regard to the publication of books, newspapers, periodicals, the writing, printing, publication and receipt of correct information." In other words, one would not be free to receive incorrect information. In the name of accuracy, then, to begin with, the Sarney government's import statistics could not be freely circulated. Since the line between correct and incorrect is tenuous (for example, Minister Leonidas Pires Gonçalves thinks it is incorrect to say that former Deputy Rubens Paiva was assassinated in the DOI [Department of Domestic Operations] of the 12th Army, in Rio de Janeiro), the new constitution would turn the authority responsible for drawing that line into a supercensor. As Warren Burger, chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, said more than a decade ago: "The Constitution dictates that the press shall be free, not that it shall be good."

Again with regard to freedom of expression, the proposed draft prohibits "class prejudice propaganda," incorporating a little ideological monster thrown into the 1934 Constitution and never removed. Since it is impossible to define the meaning of "class prejudice," both a radical PT member and an orthodox businessman could invoke this idea to silence the other.

In an exemplary case of thoughtless legislation, the draft proposal says that censorship of performances shall always be by rating and "cannot involve the prohibition of or deletions in the performance or program." At first glance, this is a gem of liberal thinking. Viewed in terms of its practical effects, the proposal gives rise to a situation in which the ratings criterion could function to bar all controversial shows to minors under 18 years of age and lead to the scheduling of all television films with scenes or themes of sex or violence in the middle of the night.

The result: the principal consumer public, formed by adolescents, would be penalized so that adults could enjoy full freedom. Following custom, it could be much more appropriate to cut a scene from "La Dolce Vita" and allow the film to be viewed by people over 14 years of age than to maintain the integrity of Federico Fellini's work and place it out of the reach of youths under 18 years of age.

Protection of the Individual

The most striking illustration of the distance which separates the liberal intent from the actual legal text is in the campaign against the files of the SNI [National Intelligence Service] and the security organs. In the attempt to rid the country of the stupidities and the injustices which are perpetrated with the files that the government collects, the text of the proposed draft states that "files relating to an individual's convictions or his private life are prohibited." In other words, the Brazilian Constitution runs the risk of attempting to prevent a citizen from keeping in his home a list of names of his friends in the PT (a matter of personal conviction) or of his unmarried relatives, or perhaps even an address book.

The intent, which cannot be realized, is to prohibit the government from keeping files on the opposition. From all indications, however, something will come out of the Constituent Assembly that will improve the life of the citizen in this regard. A "habeas data" is proposed, by which the taxpayer could require the SNI, the police or one of the military secret services to reveal what information they had on file regarding him. This guarantee is unlikely to be approved precisely as stated, but the trend of the Constituent Assembly has been established with regard to the protection of the individual. "After everything that has occurred in this country, this right has become a fundamental issue," said Deputy Maurilio Ferreira Lima (PMDB-Pernambuco).

In fact, it is precisely when one looks at what has happened in the country that one gains a better perception of the virtues of the proposed draft on rights and guarantees. The SNI dossier on the poet Joao Cabral de Mello Neto informs, for example, that he is the author of the "play 'Morte e Vida Severina,' which foments class struggle." Since, like Indians and fools, SNI personnel cannot be criminally liable, Joao Cabral in fact needs the aid of a constitutional provision to instruct the SNI that "Morte e Vida Severina" does not foment class struggle and, moreover, is not a play, but a poem. Counterbalancing the protection of the rights of the citizen, as occurs in all the constitutions, there is a draft proposal for defense of the state, signed by Deputy Ricardo Fiuza, which provides, among other things, for a new and freer organization of the National Security Council.

Absurdities

--The proposed draft provides that a petition signed by 15,000 [sic] voters will determine that the Congress must give priority to the consideration of a constitutional amendment. Meanwhile, a congressman elected with more than 15,000 votes must submit his amendment to the conventional system of passage.

--The proposed draft states that "everyone has the right to a job, through a full employment policy," but does not specify how to establish this economic regime for full employment of the labor force.

--One article states that confiscation shall not be a legal penalty and another one states that, if a public official has enriched himself illegally, "the penalty shall be the loss of the property."

Labor

Path to Paradise: an Unrealistic Proposal for Negotiation

The work of the subcommittees has already made it clear that the new constitution will expand the rights of the workers, protecting them, above all, from the harsh effects of unemployment. It is still impossible to foresee, however, how this will be accomplished. The 34 articles produced by the Subcommittee on Workers' Rights resemble a tourist brochure for paradise more than a set of standards regulating a country devastated by economic crises and a scarcity of resources.

In this Brazil, a work week would be 40 hours; a year would still have 12 months, but there would be 14 months of wages, adjusted monthly, to each increase in inflation. Since it is not a property of constitutions to generate funds, the debate on the labor issue will be a rich one, in terms of the creation of effective mechanisms for improving the life of the workers without the need to transform the country, by decree, into a paradise. The group of proposals should be radically revised before it reaches the floor of the Constituent Assembly.

The central theme of the debates will be the protection of the worker's job or, in times of crisis, the protection of the unemployed worker. According to the Subcommittee report, any employee would be assured of job stability on completion of 90 days of service; thereafter, he may be dismissed only for just cause, if he has committed a serious breach. Such a provision exists now only in the Soviet Union and in Cuba, where, on the other hand, the worker is not even free to choose the city in which he would like to live. "We must attempt this experiment in Brazil," believes Deputy Geraldo Campos (PMDB-Federal District), chairman of the Subcommittee. "It is a matter of experimenting with the best way to destroy the economy and the lives of the workers," rebuts Deputy Delfim Netto (PDS [Social Democratic Party]-Sao Paulo). The stability which the Subcommittee dreams of would lead, as an immediate effect, to a gigantic round of dismissals, the closing of the labor market, the institution of a national

hoax. At medium range, companies unable to adapt to market variations or to adjust their personnel for greater efficiency would simply fold. At long range, the constitutional provision would be revoked or turned into a museum piece. "This idea of turning all the Brazilians into civil servants is catastrophic," warns Deputy Guilherme Afif Domingos (PL [Liberal Party]-Sao Paulo). "In a country lacking even a stable economy, this proposal for job stability will not work," declares Marcio Braga, PMDB.

Between the paradise promised by the Subcommittee and the hell experienced by more than 10 million jobless in the 1983 recession, the Constituent members are faced with a mathematical problem. Estimating that an unemployed person needs about 80 percent of his former wage in order to live while he seeks another job and knowing that the average period of unemployment in Brazil during a recession is 14 months, a formula must be sought to protect the worker without destroying the economy in which he works.

Unemployment Compensation

Job stability after 90 days is a maneuver by the Left in the Constituent Assembly to force the conservatives to negotiate. Last week, meeting with the PMDB reporters Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes himself voiced his alarm at the economic consequences of job tenure for everyone and is looking for more effective formulas. The new constitution might provide for an unemployment fund, establishing standards that would be more generous than the legislation now in force, which leaves one of every two unemployed persons without assistance.

In the PMDB itself, Deputy Jose Serra is already working on a proposal by which the constitution would provide for the creation of a fund which, combining the resources of the PIS-PASEP [Social Integration Program-Civil Servants Welfare Fund] and the Guarantee Fund, would constitute an unemployment wage. Since 47.3 percent of the Constituent members have already voiced their approval of a mechanism to apply larger penalties to an employer who dismisses workers without just cause, it already appears possible to reach an agreement. Deputy Delfim Netto, for example, accepts the possibility of extending the period of prior notice from 30 to 90 days, in certain cases. The Constituent members are almost unanimous in their desire that companies with a large labor turnover should suffer some type of sanctions when they dismiss their employees.

According to the trend set in the Subcommittee, the constitution will be obliged to **honor** the same union structure imposed on the country during the Getulio Vargas dictatorship. Since the 1940's, the Brazilian workers have been obligated to pay 1 day's wage annually in the form of a union tax, but they may only organize a union by category. Today, the union tax forms a pot of money which has in part passed into the hands of the entities controlled by the CUT [Sole Central Union of workers] and the CGT [General Union Headquarters] and the idea of emptying the coffers of the unions is greeted with enthusiasm by the government, the PFL bench and part of the PMDB. The congressmen have bypassed the discussion of union plurality and, in defense of the creation of a regime in which the workers may choose among various forms of organization to protect his rights, the Constituent Assembly may witness the emergence of a new alliance. It would include the PT congressmen, united with the liberals of

the PL and even the PDS, on one side, while the Communist parties and a part of the PMDB would fight in defense of the corporative legislation.

[Box, p 36]

Innovations

--The constitution would guarantee free meals provided by the companies to their employees.

--It would establish a monthly wage adjustment based on the cost of living.

--The proposed draft calls for the unrestricted right to strike, even for civil servants. Work stoppages would no longer be prohibited for essential services.

--The constitution would establish a 40-hour work week, with no reduction in salary.

--It would provide for a 14-month wage, to provide a paid vacation.

--The National Congress would be empowered to establish a national minimum wage.

Political Liberties: a Liberal Tone

Political Institutions Strengthened

Although the final measure of the political liberties remains for debate in the full session of the Constituent Assembly, there are sure signs that they will be expanded. There will be more possibility for the citizen to organize without fear of police action and there will be a limitation of the legal apparatus which, by the laws enacted in 1967, served to threaten opponents of the government. In one article, the right of association could amount to a guarantee of unprecedented proportions, to the point that the headquarters of a neighborhood association, for example, would be as inviolable as a home, and the police could only enter with the authorization of the court. Another article would eliminate "crimes against the national security."

Faithful to a tradition which has stood since 1824, the Constituent Assembly is seeking to build a strong state; the difference is that the legislators are elaborating a draft constitution in which the National Congress emerges as a powerful institution, even under politically disastrous situations in which it has customarily been dissolved. Thus, the Constituent members feel that a state of emergency may only be declared if it is approved by the Congress within a 5-day period--and, after 1 month, the same legislators may, or may not, authorize that it be continued. In the Spanish democracy, the courts do not have this right; in France, the Constitution drafted in 1958 defines a state of emergency as a regime in which the president of the republic may adopt exceptional measures--and the citizen is not informed as to what measures these are or how long they will remain in effect.

The new constitution will be liberal with regard to the formation of new parties, which would function without any constitutional barriers and would require a symbolic number of members to compete in an election. At the same time, the

constitution which is beginning to take shape in Brasilia maintains a point of honor for the military ministers--their place in the constitution. According to the proposed draft, the Armed Forces will continue to be responsible for "domestic security."

[Box, p 37]

Innovations

--Plebescite for the approval of impact projects, such as the construction of nuclear plants.

--To launch a candidate, a political party need have only 0.5 percent of its members in the region in which the candidate will run.

--Associations have the same rights of inviolability as homes.

--A mixed system will be adopted for elections, with district and proportional vote.

--The National Security Council will be expanded to include the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate and the Federal Supreme Court.

Economic Freedoms: General Clash

In the Economy, Confrontation of All Trends

If the Constituent Assembly appears to have established a liberal trend regarding individual rights and guarantees and has not defined any trend whatever regarding the type of executive power which should exist in Brazil, there has been an intriguing phenomenon in the economic area: all the trends have met head on, and, up to now, except for the question of taxation, no one has given way. In other words, the battle will move from the committees into the full session.

According to former Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen, several proposals which have been approved threaten to turn Brazil into a "Banglabania," a country which combines the clamor of Bangladesh for the redistribution of wealth with Albania's autocratic centralism. The symbol of Banglabanism is embodied in Deputy Fernando Gasparian (PMDB-Sao Paulo), who was foiled in his attempt to establish what he called "real interest rates" (an abstraction which he never managed to define adequately) at 12 percent per year and who succeeded in winning approval for a provision according to which no citizen could be appointed as director of the Central Bank if he has been associated with any credit organization in the last 4 years. "He wants a Central Bank managed by tailors," Simonsen said.

'Child's Joke'

The proposed draft prohibits 19 legally established foreign banks from operating in Brazil, without explaining how the Bank of Brazil will function abroad. "It even seems like a child's joke," declared economist Carlos Longo, of the University of Sao Paulo. With regard to foreign capital, however, the thrust has been moderate. The draft proposal defines a national company as one "constituted

according to Brazilian law and whose administrative headquarters are located in the country." This would permit Volkswagen, for example, to represent itself as a national company, despite countless bureaucratic challenges.

The attempts to strengthen the state machinery were thwarted by a barrier erected by deputies Guilherme Afif Domingos and Delfim Netto, along with Roberto Campos, who, if they did not succeed in imposing their ideas, at least demonstrated that they have the ability to shoot down the absurdities of the others. In the confusion, in which each side was attempting to defend its views, the Subcommittee guaranteed that the Navy had a right to a percentage of the oil in the fields on the continental shelf and of the minerals which depend on maritime transport, pursuing a line of reasoning which, if true, would lead the Army to collect a tax on the gold mines and the Air Force to exact its toll from the air line fares.

The federal union, with its Gargantuan hunger for revenues, could lose about 25 percent of its take, which would revert to the states and municipios. Public service companies are in for an unpleasant surprise, because they could be obliged to pay taxes. The Congress, which has been limited in its capacity to pass spending bills since 1977, is moving toward a kind of supervised freedom.

In a group effort of 24 subcommittees, the congressmen have created an economic model which is understandably chaotic; at this time, it calls for a gross domestic product twice as large as the Brazilian GDP to pay for all the social programs. By the same token, a way must be found to double the federal budget to enable it to meet all the allocations determined by the parliament.

The Constituent members were generous with funds and the Northeastern benches were clever at winning resources for their states. All of them were acting on behalf of a better world for the Brazilians. Unfortunately, it will not be Belgians on the other side of the line, paying the taxes to support the paradise, but Brazilians. Because of this, the tax bite is bigger and the states acquire the right to add 5 percent to the income tax of their citizens. Later, the bite will be even bigger, when the municipios are allowed to create a retail sales tax. From all indications, the Constituent Assembly of 1987 will adhere to the old national tradition. Offer paradise at long range and collect more taxes from the voters now.

[Box, p 38]

Innovations

- The states are authorized to increase their income tax by 5 percent;
- Foreign banks will be prohibited from accepting deposits and must leave the country within a year;
- PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] will lose its monopoly in the refining of petroleum;
- State companies will be subjected to the same labor and tax regime as private companies;
- The market reserve, now in effect in the computer area, will be established as a constitutional principle.
- The president of the Central Bank shall serve for a set term of 4 years.

Property: Confused Picture

Ambiguous Solution for Property Ownership

In all seven constitutions which the country has had, all Brazilians who have owned a little property, be it an automobile, a home financed through the BNH [National Housing Bank] or an industrial empire, have come under an ambiguous law.

Both in the first constitution, written to the taste of Dom Pedro I, in 1884, and the constitutional amendment of 1969, property ownership has always been a recognized right--under certain conditions. According to the emperor, the right to property ownership could end where the public welfare began. According to the generals who were governing the country 18 years ago, the rights were guaranteed as long as they did not conflict with the "social interest." Throughout the years, unable to define either "public welfare" or "social interest," governments have dealt with property as it suited their own convenience. After 2 months of debates in the subcommittees, the Constituent Assembly is maintaining the tradition.

With regard to property ownership, exotic ideas are circulating--such as the proposal to give back to the descendants of Quilombo de Palmares, as well as of other settlements of fugitive slaves, the lands which their ancestors farmed in the 18th century. The Indians, with a population now estimated at 220,000, would have the right to a 79-million hectare area, equivalent to Bahia State and Roraima Territory combined, or 18 times the size of a city such as Rio de Janeiro. Basically, however, the constitution would keep the custom of at once enforcing and denying the same right. There are positive changes that would guarantee, for example, the possession of residential property in an urban area, as long as it has been occupied for a period of 5 years; until now, the requirement was 10 years. The constitution touches on a point which, up to now, has been left out of the laws of the country--the right to inheritance. According to a proposal of the Committee on Taxation, an inheritance tax will be instituted for the first time.

At the center of the discussion of property ownership lies an issue which, unlike the others, has already provoked various crises in the country, such as the collapse of the Joao Goulart government, and is now dividing the Constituent Assembly: agrarian reform. The legislators required only 14 hours of discussion in the Subcommittee on Agricultural Policy and Agrarian Reform to realize that they were facing a heated debate in which the major differences would be settled, vote by vote, in the final decisions of the full session.

When the discussion began, agrarian reform consisted in the largest expropriation of land in the country since Pedro Alvares Cabral landed at Port Seguro. In a dazzling plan, authored by Deputy Oswaldo Lima Filho (PMDB-Pernambuco), any person who owned 4,000 hectares in Sao Paulo would have his land expropriated by the government--which would undertake to distribute it to small farmers. If carried to fruition, this project would cut up the largest soybean plantations in the world, which belong to entrepreneur Olacyr de Moraes, and in Pernambuco it would spell disaster for one of the great riches of the state:

its sugar cane. By the time it emerged from the committee, the draft called for the most limited agrarian reform since the Land Statute, authored by President Castello Branco in 1964. In the briefest of all the resolutions approved to date, the Subcommittee approved a pair of articles in which the expression "agrarian reform" does not even appear. "It was a great victory for us," said Deputy Roberto Cardoso Alves, of the right wing of the PMDB.

"The debate will continue," declared Deputy Irma Passoni, PT, "and we will have an opportunity to change the draft for the better." In a country where 70 percent of the people do not eat properly and only one-fifth of the available land is farmed, the idea of distributing land had already seduced politicians on the Right and the Left, military or civilian. President Sarney even announced, at the beginning of his administration, that he would give land to 15 million families every year--and to date he has not met more than 10 percent of the established goal.

[Box, p 39]

Innovations

--The constitution would establish an inheritance tax.

--It would hamper expropriations, which would have to be indemnified in cash. Until now, the rule has been to pay for the land with treasury notes, redeemable in 20 years.

--It would reduce the period for possession of urban land. Whereas it once required occupancy, uncontested, for 10 years, it now would require only 5 years.

--Indians would come to own the lands which they inhabit, which represent, in various parts of the country, an area larger than Bahia State.

--The constitution would guarantee title to the land to black communities descended from the fugitive slaves.

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CHRISTIAN LEFT LEADER ON PINOCHET, U.S. SUPPORT

Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 11-17 May 87 pp 32-34

[Interview with Luis Maira, coordinator of the Christian Left, by Patricia Verdugo; date and place not given]

[Text] At the age of 46, he is one of the "main dishes" of the Chilean Left for the future democratic menu. And with his height and stocky build, he was viewed as a heavyweight in the political ring since 1962, when he headed the FECh [Student Federation of Chile] and later became the youngest deputy to reach the Chamber in 1965. At the time, he worked within the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and continued to serve as deputy when, in 1971, he decided to join the budding Christian Left. "Up to that point, I had felt very comfortable in the DC, but I decided to give it up when I ascertained that there were groups in my party that were embarking on a coup d'etat. I did not want to be an accomplice."

He participated in the Popular Unity government at the request of President Allende, in the delegation that negotiated with the United States during the confrontation he describes as "crucial." "We then discovered our ignorance, our lack of information about the complex way in which decisions are made in American policy. The negotiations ended in the well-known failure. These were negotiations in which the Americans, as the result of decisions already made, were simply trying to gain time."

After the coup, Maira escaped military persecution and sought asylum in the Mexican Embassy, where he stayed for 8 months, until he obtained the safe conduct pass that led him to Mexican soil. From there, during his 10 years in exile, he was able to see Chile as a forest rather than the individual trees, gaining an overall view, he says. Being in Mexico, so close to the United States, reaffirmed the need to know and seriously study what happens in Washington. He therefore became an expert on international relations and now advises Latin American Foreign Ministries.

[Question] What is Chile for the United States?

[Answer] Very little. The truth is that we are a very marginal country and economically speaking, in terms of imports, exports, investments and strategic products, we represent virtually nothing. Until the 1970's, we were important

because of our copper, a relatively scarce and important product for industrial economies. But the 1980's marked a decline in the price and importance of raw materials as a result of the technological revolution, which created the so-called new materials that take the place of most strategic raw materials.

[Question] But it was not because of copper that Chile was so important for the United States in deciding to oust Allende.

[Answer] Of course not. What happened is that the Chilean case had symbolic value in the world. Chile represented the old utopia of the political path to socialism, which at the time was a vigorous undertaking in several societies such as France and Italy, for example, with united lefts. Kissinger said it very clearly: "If we were to permit the consolidation of the Chilean experience, then we would have to accept tolerance of a socialist experience in France or Italy. We cannot do that."

[Question] Perhaps it was just the wrong time. If the Chileans had elected Allende after the French did Mitterrand or the Spaniards Felipe Gonzalez, would the United States have tolerated the Chilean experience?

[Answer] I am not quite sure because the Popular Unity experience was more radical. I tend to believe that as a result of the failure of the Chilean experience, many European socialist parties adopted more moderate programs of reforms within capitalism. On the other hand, if Allende had been successful, very interesting experiences would have occurred in the world. That was the American concern, along with the conflict over the nationalization of copper.

[Question] Not paying compensation for the nationalized mines was insane, seen from today's viewpoint?

[Answer] It was a very radical decision that brought on the conflict. What we applied--with the unanimous support of Parliament--was the doctrine of excessive profits: the right to deduct from nationalized assets the profits which foreign companies allegedly took in in excess of the legal amount of profit. The calculations meant not paying.

[Question] They say the Americans even offered to loan or give dollars to pay that compensation, just so it would be paid.

[Answer] I have heard that. What I know for sure is what I heard from Charles Meyer, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs and head of the American delegation at the negotiations. He told us at the beginning of the talks: "On the road of relations, there is a rock and many pebbles. The rock is the problem of the indemnification for the copper and the pebbles all other matters. If we remove the rock, we can easily agree on clearing out the pebbles. Otherwise, we cannot even begin to discuss the secondary affairs."

[Question] Why was that so important?

[Answer] The United States then had about \$95 million invested in the world and if it allowed a government to take American property without paying a cent,

then that might provide encouragement for nationalization or expropriation all over the world. The business of the copper compromised all American investments and the political model might promote radical changes in Europe. That is why Chile was a crucial case.

[Question] And what are we now?

[Answer] With the coup d'etat, we were once again of secondary importance. We are not a test case, as the State Department calls crucial countries.

[Question] How do you know that?

[Answer] Because the test-case determines two changes in the formulation of policies. Decisions are made at higher levels, coming close to the White House or the National Security Council, and decisions are centralized and coordinated. For the Popular Unity crisis, those in charge were the Committee of the 40 within the National Security Council. Now, in contrast, we have different policies, different American interests handled by agencies regularly entrusted with the task of formulating policies. The State Department makes diplomatic decisions, the Treasury Department makes economic decisions, the Department of Defense decides on military aid and the Central Intelligence Agency handles covert actions. This explains the contradictions because their interests do not always coincide.

[Question] For the State Department, General Pinochet is an annoyance.

[Answer] I would say that it has strong objections to Pinochet's regime: it wants a more effective political transition. But the Treasury Department sees it as very useful for its interests: It pays on time, services the debt in an "exemplary" manner and its policy of investments suits American interests. For the Defense Department, the Chilean Armed Forces are solid allies.

[Question] But the "strong objections" of the State Department might affect other interests, both economic and military. Nicaragua is one example.

[Answer] That is true, but for that very reason, the other interests place limits on the search for a democratic transition in Chile. The United States is not going to favor the transition if it means internal changes contrary to American interests.

[Question] Even so, everything indicates that General Pinochet has turned out to be an uncomfortable ally.

[Answer] The fact is that the Chilean dictatorship is a world symbol of an authoritarian government. It is the most classic dictatorship in the contemporary world. That affects the decisions of the American Government and Congress. In addition, there is the fact that Chile has turned into a trading point in the Central American crisis, ever since Reagan decided, in 1984, to openly support the Nicaraguan Contras in order to defeat the Sandinist Government. And note this interesting point: The United States is not always against the armed path in Third World countries. It is all a matter of timeliness, not

principles. In order to do so, Reagan had to adjust his rhetoric, maintaining that Washington was promoting democratization on the continent. It has been said that with Washington's backing, civilian governments have been overthrown in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay, Guatemala and Haiti. And in the future, the United States will face dictatorships of the left and right. Consequently, we are tied together, Chile and Nicaragua, perhaps against our will.

[Question] And how does the Letelier case fit into the picture?

[Answer] That is something that Reagan inherited. The crime took place under Ford and Carter then inherited it. But the case has great significance for the very political situation in the United States. Reagan's principal discourse on foreign policy is to fight terrorism and terrorist states, meaning Libya, Cuba and the Soviet Union. And in the Letelier case, there is state terrorism. It has been proved and meticulously documented.

[Question] And when you add this to Irangate....

[Answer] There you have it, because Reagan's administration is now subject to the people's judgment because of its collusion with a terrorist state, just as it labeled Iran. The Letelier case, with the confession of Maj Fernandez Larios, confronts Reagan with another terrorist state, Chile, which even declares itself to be an ally of the United States. It is the only one that has dared to take its criminal activity to the heart of the American capital. This was never done by Cuba, Iran, Libya or the USSR. That is why the case now takes on symbolic importance and American public opinion can observe whether the government will apply a double standard.

[Question] What does the United States want from General Pinochet?

[Answer] The State Department wants one thing; the Treasury something else and Defense something else.

[Question] What it does not want yet is democracy for Chile, apparently. We always hear the refrain, "If only there were a viable alternative," Pinochet could be replaced. And when they say "viable," they mean in keeping with their interests.

[Answer] There you have it. The United States seeks gradual processes of transition, with safeguards and guarantees preventing radical experiments. And there are three such guarantees: first of all, a moderate political coalition with certain social backing that might take over. Second, that coalition must not propose changes, it must accept the legitimacy of the capitalist system and have firm anticommunist policies, guaranteeing the exclusion of the left. Third, there must be an orderly and complete withdrawal of the Armed Forces to their barracks, without substantial reforms in their structure and doctrine, maintaining a tutelary role of the transition process. These are the "viable democracies" for the State Department.

[Question] And we cannot provide these guarantees in Chile.

[Answer] No, because Chile has a very large and strong left and because it also has a very well organized civilian society: many trade unions, organizations of students, women, settlers and Araucanians. It is an extremely complicated country. If you do not believe it, just ask Ambassador Barnes how difficult this country is! This helps paralyze the United States because from time to time, they get carried away with certain proposals that opposition groups take to Washington and then, when they try to apply them, the proposals are inviable.

[Question] Proposals such as the Democratic Alliance, the National Accord.

[Answer] All of those, but the Chilean case is not costing them any sleep. It only makes officials in charge of handling the Chilean affair nervous.

[Question] Along with Chilean politicians, who know that the United States is a key power for deciding.

[Answer] Naturally, it is an important force in decisions on the Chilean future. Because of its hegemonic condition, it is nearly everywhere in the world. But the Chilean politicians made an enormous mistake in believing that the United States would decide the Chilean situation and that internal factors do not have priority in defining the solution.

[Question] Many thought that the Letelier case would put an end to Pinochet, just as others think that if the United States put him in, it should take him out.

[Answer] And that is a serious mistake, to begin with, because the United States was one of the forces that ousted Allende and installed the Pinochet regime. The main force was the economic and political right, which had the support of sectors of the Christian Democratic Party and the army. The United States did not have to look for allies here. They were ready since a week after Allende's election, when Agustin Edwards arrived in Washington. They asked for support and were immediately activated.

[Question] Even asking for weapons to kill the commander in chief of the army, Gen Rene Schneider.

[Answer] That is true, and they never stopped until the coup. The United States supported the two paths of destabilization: Track One and Track Two, and handed over many material elements, as the Church Committee proved in the American Senate investigation in 1975. But Chilean hands put Pinochet in office and Chilean hands will have to get him out. It will depend on what is done in Chile.

[Question] But the political picture is immobilized and some think that the key lies in the fear of the left's strength.

[Answer] I want to make it clear: The left does not have the goal of moving from Pinochet's government to socialism. The left wants to consolidate a stable democratic regime and in a new constitution, arising out of a constituent

assembly, to lay the foundations for the processes of social change that the country wants to have in the future. Moving from capitalism to socialism is not in the platform of the Communist Party, the socialist groups, the Christian left or the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement].

[Question] But no one believes that.

[Answer] You are right. This image of intransigence is part of the problem of the left. Just as it is a problem to believe in the democratic will of those who have supported this dictatorship for over 13 years.

[Question] What do you propose to do?

[Answer] The scenario in 1987 is different and dominated by what General Pinochet does. In order to achieve his objective of staying in power, he has to make a whole series of political laws function. On the one hand, this gives him an image of openness and flexibility. On the other hand, he has to ensure that the laws take effect and see that the people register to vote and that the parties are included as such. That is no so easy because if a group of political forces decides to abstain or set very drastic conditions, we will not have the framework of legitimacy for holding the 1988 plebiscite.

That is why we have to prevent Pinochet from dividing the opposition based on his political laws. We can pledge not to issue a pronouncement until all the laws are set forth, until we know all the rules of play. And we could give joint support to the campaign for free elections. The essential thing now is expressing majority rejection of the country to a continuation of Pinochet's personal power.

[Question] Although that only means that Pinochet should leave and the system continue.

[Answer] Naturally! Because personal dictatorships last as long as their leaders. The country will be in a better situation to take rapid steps of effective democratization once the main obstacle is gone. I assume the heterogeneous nature of a coalition for free elections, but I know that the greatest risk to national coexistence is for Pinochet to continue in power until 1997. There is a right time for everything.

[Question] Why would there now be unity of the opposition parties?

[Answer] Because in 1986, the two strategic paths previously used failed: negotiations and military defeat. Both were a mistake for the Chilean reality. We have but to go down the path of political defeat over the mass struggle and consequently, we should have a greater consensus. There is still the proposal which Almeyda, Corvalan and I made at the end of last year to the center and the right: joining together to seek a path to fight the dictatorship and a proposed democratic transition, assuming all the commitments and obligations deriving from such a consensus.

[Question] It would appear they have not learned of the proposal because there has been no response.

[Answer] Not yet. We are patient. We shall insist a hundred times, if necessary. In politics, you have to have "Muslim" patience. You cannot hurry the laggards.

[Question] And is it that Muslim patience that keeps you optimistic?

[Answer] No. It is my determination not to become resigned to living under a dictatorship. We political leaders received this country as a democracy and it is our duty to turn it over to our children as a democracy. I always recall one phrase of Gramsci: "Combining the pessimism of intelligence with the optimism of one's will." We must neither fall into the trap of uncontrolled willfulness nor see difficulties as hopeless and passively give in to perpetuation of the dictatorship. Between willfulness and passiveness is a path of possible activity that we must take.

11,464

CSO: 3348/314

ALLEGED SECURITY PLAN TO CONFRONT OPPOSITION RELEASED

Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 1 Apr 87 pp 19-22

[Article by Enrique Gutierrez Aicardi]

[Text] Members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) managed to procure a secret Chilean Army document known as the "Santiago" Internal Security Plan, in which precise instructions are issued for militarily confronting the political opposition to the military government headed by 13 and a half years by Gen Augusto Pinochet. That document was provided by the representative of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front abroad, Roberto Torres, at a hasty press conference held during his passage through Mexico.

Torres claimed that the plan, stamped "secret" on each and every one of its pages, proves who are really the ones who have militarized the crisis that the South American country is undergoing; a charge that has been made by the center and right wing opposition against FPMR itself.

Torres remarked: "It is our intention to make it clear that we have not introduced the military element, but rather the regime headed by Pinochet has. What we are seeking is unity among all the patriotic forces; a unity of great breadth that will make it possible to overthrow the dictatorship."

He added: "In the aforementioned plan, it is explained how the Armed Forces have been converted into a mere police force, and how in locations such as the old Colima air base north of Santiago there is a system calling for 5,000 men to make war on the people of Chile. In other words, we are faced with a terrorist military complex of great scope, whereby it is being sought to perpetuate the current regime, with or without Pinochet. In describing what the plan terms 'adversary forces,' the Catholic Church appears among this 'enemy,' and the cardinal himself, Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno, is even mentioned among those who must be combated."

Following is the first part of the document:

Republic of Chile, Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency [JZEE], Metropolitan Region, San Antonio Province, General Headquarters, Dept III, (s) No 3120/60

Copy No 25/27, Page No 1/15, Santiago, Metropolitan Region, 18 Jul 1986.

"Santiago" Internal Security Plan of the Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency for the Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province

Master Plan of Santiago, IGM [Military Geographical Institute], Scale, 1:25,000 1979 edition (Expansion), 1:12,5000

Plan of Greater Santiago, Metropolitan Areas, Scale, 1:20,000, 1982 edition, 1982-83

I. General Situation

A. Adversary Forces

1. In the external area

International Marxism, led by the government of the Soviet Union, has intensified the international propaganda campaign against the Chilean Military Government, acting mainly in the area of the international agencies and through Chilean politicians in exile, for the purpose of achieving political, economic, and diplomatic isolation, and seeking the overthrow of the present military regime as soon as possible.

The foregoing has been proven by the constant, coordinated demonstrations held in the European countries, the United States of America, and certain Latin American countries.

2. In the internal area

In coordination with the external action, the trade union organizations, the Catholic Church, the political parties combined in the so-called "Multiparty" movement, infiltrated by the Communist Party and the Christian Democratic Party, have held "peaceful" protests, aimed at paralyzing the normal course of national activity so as to foster the downfall of the Military Government.

The extremist movements and common criminals have taken advantage of the previously described situation to produce and give the impression of internal chaos, through activities involving looting, fires, destruction of property, and destruction of both private and mass transport vehicles, as well as attacks on facilities of the SSUUPP [Public Utility Services], etc.

B. Own Forces

1. The president of the republic is the supreme authority to decide upon internal security activities.

2. The country is in a state of emergency, with zonal chiefs appointed to the various jurisdictional commands which are directly subordinate to the president of the republic.

3. The Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency of the Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province has, to carry out the internal security missions, resources originating in the Armed Forces' order and security institutions, which have been subordinated to it for this purpose.

C. Basic Assumptions

1. That the widespread subversive action which occurs will not coincide with external aggression.

2. That the resources originating in the different institutions that are placed at the disposal of the Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency will be provided in a timely manner and in the stipulated magnitude.

3. That legal provisions will be issued to grant authority to the Zone Chief in State of Emergency and for the use of the Armed Forces.

D. Rights and Limitations

1. Rights

a. The protection of the SSUUPP with military resources will detract capacity from the units for forming reaction groups.

b. The protection of diplomatic authorities and headquarters will detract order and security resources from the forces made available for use in a coercive manner against the adversary.

2. Limitations

a. Article 90 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Chile stipulates the different missions for the Armed Forces and for the Forces of Order and Public Security. Those institutions have different organization, instruction, equipment and procedures for use; which must be considered in the missions assigned to these forces.

b. There is no Internal Security Planning on the national level that stipulates the missions for the Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency.

II. Mission and General Idea of Use of the Resources

A. Mission

To maintain control of the jurisdictional zone, ensuring the normal operation of public and private activities; preventing an upset in public order, and damage or danger to national security; using essentially for this purpose the Forces of Order and Public Security, and planning the possible use of the Armed Forces' resources in extremely serious situations that cause jeopardy to the institutional order of the republic.

B. General Idea of Use of the Resources

1. Text of the Joint Resolution

With the resources subject to this headquarters, to protect, control, and maintain order and public security with a command centralized in the Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency of the Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province; and an execution and control decentralized in military commands in each one of the jurisdictional areas, as follows:

Initially, to use the Forces of Order and Security for patrolling, surveillance, and control action, planning their use in a coercive manner; and part of the Armed Forces resources for deterrent action.

Subsequently, to use the resources of the Armed Forces and the Forces of Order and Security for action aimed at neutralizing or destroying any outbreak of violence or subversive activity.

To maintain on a constant basis the protection of persons, installations, vital systems, and critical sectors, with resources of the Armed Forces and the Forces of Order and Security.

To maintain a general reserve, with mobile resources equipped to go to any area of the jurisdictional zone.

To supplement the police and military action with measures ordered by the Supreme Government, according to the legal authority of the pertinent stand-by status.

All of the foregoing to maintain control of the jurisdictional zone while the pertinent stand-by status remains in effect, ensuring the normal operation of public and private activities, preventing upsets to public order, and damage or risk to the national security that would cause jeopardy to the institutional order of the republic.

2. Phases

a. First Phase, "Preparation" (As of now and until the end of the Planning of Jurisdictional Areas)

Establishment of the command with its general headquarters in the various groups.

Detailed reconnaissance of the critical zones and potential targets, based on areas of responsibility.

Preparation of the planning on all levels.

Execution of civic action operations on the institutional level.

Organization, equipping, and instruction of the antisubversive units of those resources which will carry out missions to protect the SSUUPP.

Coordination with the SSUUPP representatives of measures for the protection and minimal operation of their respective services.

Coordination of the commanders of jurisdictional areas with the commanders of units which will subordinate resources to them.

b. Second Phase, "Execution" (From the time of the completion of the Planning of Jurisdictional Areas as long as the pertinent stand-by status remains in effect)

1) Sub-Phase, "Preventive and Deterrent Action" (from the end of the planning until the first action relating to disorders seeking to upset public order)

Assumption of the command of units in accordance with the organization of forces.

Enactment of the measures ordered by the Supreme Government aimed at reducing or eliminating the acts of violence by the adversary.

Control of the population's compliance with those restrictive measures that have been ordered.

Execution of Civic Action Operations in a decentralized manner based on jurisdictional zones, and when the situation in each one of them so allows.

Ground and air patrolling in the jurisdictional zone with the Order and Security resources.

Protection of the SSUUPP with Armed Forces resources.

Surveillance and control of troubled sectors or spots, essentially with Order and Security resources and with the use of deterrents by the Armed Forces resources when the situation so requires.

Use of the Order and Security resources in a coercive manner with police procedures.

2) Sub-Phase, "Coercive Action" (from the first action involving disorders aimed at upsetting public order until normality has been achieved in the jurisdictional area)

Continued execution of the activities involving patrolling surveillance, and protection and control of the preceding phase.

Offensive use of the resources of the Armed Forces and Forces of Order and Security against subversive groups.

Use of the General Reserve

C. Jurisdictional Zone

1) The jurisdictional zone of the Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency includes the Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province.

a) Territorial Division

According to Annex No 7

III. Mission for the Units

A. First Phase, "Preparation" (from now until the end of the Planning of Jurisdictional Areas)

1) Central Santiago-Northern Santiago-Southern Santiago-Eastern Santiago-Western Santiago-General Reserve-AJSIS [Jurisdictional Areas of Internal Security] groups. Chacabuco Province-Maipo Province, Cordillera Province-Talagante and Melipilla Provinces, and San Antonio Province.

a. Command: According to organization of forces (Annex No 2)

b. Resources: According to organization of forces (Annex No 2)

c. Mission:

1) To establish the commands with their pertinent General Headquarters.

2) To carry out detailed reconnaissance in the critical zones of their respective Jurisdictional Areas.

3) To devise the planning derived from the Internal Security Plan of the Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency.

4) To establish coordination with the commanders or chiefs of the non-organic resources that will be subordinate to them.

5) To arrange the organization, equipment, instruction, and training of the Fundamental Antisubversive Units and the resources to be used for the protection of the Public Utility Services.

6) To establish coordination with the representatives of the Public Utility Services regarding measures for the protection and minimal operation of their respective services.

B. Second Phase, "Execution" (from the completion of the Planning of the Jurisdictional Area commanders as long as the pertinent stand-by status is in effect)

1) Sub-Phase, "Preventive and Deterrent Action") (from the end of the planning until the first acts of disorder aimed at upsetting public order)

a. Central Santiago-Northern Santiago-Southern Santiago-Eastern Santiago-Western Santiago-AJSIS groups. Chacabuco Province-Maipo Province-Cordillera Province-Talagante and Melipilla Provinces and San Antonio Province.

1) Command: According to organization of forces (Annex 2)

2) Resources: According to organization of forces (Annex 2)

3) Mission:

a) To assume command of the assigned units according to organization of forces.

b) To carry out civic action operations in a decentralized manner based on jurisdictional areas and when the individual situation so allows.

c) To intensify control of the access and exit routes of the city, aimed fundamentally at inspection for arms and explosives trafficking, and moves of subversive elements, with the Order and Security resources.

d) To engage in ground and air patrolling in the jurisdictional zones, with the Order and Security resources.

e) To control the fulfillment by the population of the respective measures that have been ordered.

f) To engage in surveillance and control of troubled sectors or points, fundamentally with Order and Security resources and with the Armed Forces resources if the situation so requires.

g) To maintain the passability of the road system in their jurisdictional zone, keeping it free from obstacles that would prevent its normal use.

h) To create the protection for the Public Utility Services' facilities, and military premises and settlements, with Armed Forces resources.

i) To continue the protection of diplomatic authorities and headquarters, police barracks, and national guard settlements, with Order and Security resources, according to the permanent provisions of the National Guard Corps.

j) To use the Order and Security resources in a coercive manner, with police procedures, depending on the situation existing in their jurisdictional zone.

b. General Reserve

1) Command: According to organization of forces (Annex 2)

2) Resources: According to organization of forces (Annex 2)

3) Mission:

a) To assume command of the forces.

b) To continue the instruction and training of its resources.

c) To engage in reconnaissance of its likely zones for utilization in the Metropolitan Area, in coordination with the respective group commanders.

d) To plan its ECSO utilization in any sector of the Metropolitan Area.

2) Sub-Phase, "Coercive Action" (from the first action involving disorders aimed at upsetting public order until normality has been achieved in the jurisdictional area)

a. Central Santiago-Northern Santiago-Southern Santiago-Eastern Santiago-Western Santiago groups.

1) Command: According to organization of forces (Annex 2)

2) Resources: According to organization of forces (Annex 2)

3) Mission:

a) To continue the activities of patrolling, surveillance, protection, and control of the previous sub-phase.

b) To use the Armed Forces Antisubversive Units and the Order and Security resources offensively, depending on the situation existing in their respective areas of responsibility.

c) To plan the isolation of their respective ECSO zones of responsibility, blocking access to and exit from them, in their respective jurisdictional limits and according to orders that the JZEE will issue at the proper time.

d) To request the use of the General Reserve for the benefit of the JZEE, when it is thought that their resources may be insufficient to control the situation.

b. AJSIS Provinces of San Antonio-Chacabuco-Cordillera-Maipo-Talagante, and Melipilla.

1) Command: According to organization of forces (Annex 2)

2) Resources: According to organization of forces (Annex 2)

3) Mission

a) To continue carrying out the activities of patrolling, surveillance, protection, and control of the previous sub-phase.

b) To use the Armed Forces and Order and Security resources offensively, depending on the situation existing in their respective areas of responsibility.

c) To plan the reinforcement of the Metropolitan Area group with part of their antisubversive resources, depending on the individual situation of each AJSI, and at the express order of the JZEE.

c. General Reserve.

1) Command: According to organization of forces (Annex 2)

2) Resources: According to organization of forces (Annex 2)

3) Mission:

a) To deploy the General Reserve based on Jurisdictional Areas in the Metropolitan Area, positioning each group in particular locations in coordination with the JZEE and with the respective group commanders.

b) To plan their offensive ECSO use in a decentralized manner.

X. Common Matters

1. This plan will be in the nature of an executive document, and will go into effect as of the time of its dissemination.

2. The Situation Chart of the Jurisdictional Zone will be kept constantly updated in the respective General Headquarters.

3. In Annex No 3 fundamental rules of action of Group Chiefs are stipulated.

4. The passage from the First Sub-Phase to the Second will be ordered by the respective commanders of Jurisdictional Areas, depending on the individual situation of each, and must be reported as soon as possible to the chief of the Zone in State of Emergency of the Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province.

5. The Engineer resources placed at the disposal of the group commanders and the General Reserve commander will be used, generally, according to the Orders in Annex No 6.

6. All vehicles used in this phase must be provided with fire-fighting equipment and sand bags.

7. The protection of the Public Utility Services will be the responsibility of the respective group commanders and Provincial AJSIS and will be provided selectively to facilities that are decided to be vitally important for the normal operation thereof, and starting on the night before the day that it is announced or discovered that acts of protest are to be held, and until the situation has been normalized. (Resources in Annex No 2).

(List of Public Utility Services under responsibility of each group and Regional AJSIS in Annex No 8).

IV. Administrative and Logistical Matters

A. Administrative

1. Organization and Force

a. Organization

1) Organization of command in Annex No 1.

2) Organization of forces in Annex No 2.

3) Organization of Fundamental Antisubversive Units in Appendix No 1 of Annex No 2.

4) Organization of antibarricade engineers equipment in Appendix No 2 of Annex No 2.

5) Organization of the Telecommunications Company in Appendix No 3 of Annex No 2.

b. State of Force

At the beginning of the Second Phase, the group commanders and commanders of Jurisdictional Areas of Provincial Internal Security will send to the JZEE the Force Reports on their resources. Subsequently, they will report the changes made on a daily basis.

2. Discipline, Law and Order

The JZEE's authority will be that delegated to it by the president of the republic, jointly with the granting of legal backing for the use of weapons by the resources of the Armed Forces. The group commanders and AJSIS will be informed in this regard with proper timeliness.

The restrictive measures for the population will be disseminated through edicts.

3. Prisoners Service

The commanders of Jurisdictional Zones will plan the provision of sites suitable for use as detention centers.

The procedure to be followed with the personnel detained for upsetting public order will be made known once the pertinent authority has been delegated to the chief of the zone in state of emergency.

4. Planning Documents

The commanders of groups, Jurisdictional Areas of Internal Security, and General Reserve will devise the planning of their respective jurisdictional zones, and must send a copy to the JZEE 5 days after the receipt of this document.

5. Administrative Backup

- a. The JZEE is not an administrative echelon.
- b. Each institution will carry out the administrative backup of its resources, according to individual procedures.
- c. During the execution of the Second Sub-Phase, all leave and passes are cancelled.

B. Logistics

1. Logistical Backup

- a. The JZEE of the Metropolitan Region is not a logistical echelon.
- b. Each institution will carry out the logistical backup of its own resources, according to its normal procedures.
- c. The use of the uniform, equipment, weaponry, and vehicles for the resources of the Metropolitan Region JZEE must adhere to the following regulations in the services specified:

1) Intendancy

- a) The food for the resources used will be provided directly by the units to which they belong.
- b) The personnel performing missions in installations or SSUUPP on a permanent basis must be provided combat rations to allow them a leeway of 5 days, and their resupply must be considered on the fourth day of consumption.
- c) All personnel must wear the complete combat uniform, according to the individual regulations of each institution.

2) Health

- a) All the units used must see to it that each man carries a health package with him for his immediate treatment.
- b) In situations requiring more specialized treatment for the personnel, they must have recourse to the nearest health facility existing in each jurisdictional zone.
- c) In extremely serious cases, consideration must be given to the personnel's immediate evacuation to the Military Hospital, the Air Force Hospital, or the National Guard Hospital.

3) War Materiel

a) Ammunition

It must be considered that each individual combatant (rifleman) is to carry with him three complete magazines with the pertinent ammunition. For the other weapons used, consideration will be given to the supplies stipulated for each of them.

b) Liquid Fuel and Lubricants

The units must devise the liquid fuel and lubricant requirements in a timely manner, depending on their real needs, to be sent to the Metropolitan Region JZEE so that they may be requested in a centralized fashion from the Interior Ministry.

4) Transportation

The transportation resources will be those specified in the organic regulations of the respective units and those assigned to them on a special, temporary basis when the situation so requires.

V. Liaison, Coordination, and Command

A. Liaison

According to Telecommunications Plan in Annex No 5.

B. Coordination

1. Direct coordination is authorized between the group commanders, commanders of Jurisdictional Areas of Provincial Internal Security, and commanders of General Reserve, and matters of interest must be reported to the JZEE.

2. Direct coordination is authorized between the commanders and the authorities responsible for Public Utility Services.

3. Coordination is authorized for group commanders, commanders of Jurisdictional Areas of Regional Internal Security, and commanders of General Reserve with the commanders of units that will subordinate resources to them for the "Execution" phase, through the pertinent institutional authorities.

c. Command

Command Post: CGGES (MDN [National Defense Ministry], sixth floor, Santiago)

Osvaldo Hernandez Pedreros, Major General
Chief of Zone in State of Emergency, Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province

Annexes

- 1: Organization of Command
- 2: Organization of Forces
- Appendix 1: Antisubversive Company Organization
- Appendix 2: Engineer (Antibarricade) Equipment Organization
- Appendix 3: Telecommunications Company Organization
- Appendix 4: National Guard Resources
- 3: Fundamental Rules of Action
- 4: Intelligence Plan
- 5: Telecommunications Plan
- Appendix 1: Telecommunications Situation Diagram
- Appendix 2: OTT and ITT
- 6: Regulations for Use of Engineers Resources
- 7: Territorial Division
- Appendix 1: Territorial Division Chart
- Appendix 2: Critical Sectors or Areas
- 8: List of Public Utility Services

Distribution

- 1: EMDN [National Defense Staff]
- 2: V. CJE
- 3: CNI [National Intelligence Center]
- 4: EMGE [Army Staff]
- 5: EMGA [Navy Staff]
- 6: EMGFA [Air Force Staff]
- 7: DIRGECA
- 8: DIRGEINV
- 9: JZEE
- 10: Northern Group
- 11: Eastern Group (CIM) [Military Intelligence Center]
- 12: Southern Group (Air Headquarters)
- 13: Western Group (CALE)
- 14: Central Group (CAAE)
- 15: Reserve Group (DIE)
- 16: AJSI Chacabuco (RA, A/A, "Colina")
- 17: AJSI Cordillera (No 2 Engineers Regiment)
- 18: AJSI Maipo (Infantry School)
- 19: AJSI Talagante and Melipilla (CQIE)
- 20: AJSI San Antonio (Engineers School)
- 21: CTE
- 22: Army Engineers Center
- 23: CIMI (Intelligence Chief)
- 24: CJIIDE (Intelligence Chief)
- 25/27: Headquarters, Chief, Federal Emergency Zone

To the Message Center on: 28 July 1986

Authentication

Raul Pinto Perez, Lt Col,
E-3 of the General Headquarters, Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency
Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province

In its second part the "Santiago" Internal Security Plan provides the pertinent instructions enabling the military and police chiefs, based on this concept of "war against the people" (ordered by Gen Augusto Pinochet himself, as recorded in the document), to act so as to prevent all types of protest demonstrations.

This part is preceded by an organizational chart on "organization of forces," in which it is specified that equipment ranging from tanks and armored vehicles to tractors will be used to destroy barricades, and both officers and troops will receive war weapons and ammunition, not rubber bullets.

Fundamental Rules of Action for Group and Subordinate AJSIS Commanders

a. General Features

1. In the protest activities carried out to date, the adversary has had the initiative to cause disorders and disruption, with the public force confined to reacting to faits accomplis.

It is for this reason that, according to the decision made by His Excellency the President of the Republic, the action of the Armed Forces and those of Order and Security will be aimed at taking control of all the critical sites inferred from previous experience, gaining the initiative from the adversary, and engaging in deterrent action initially.

2. Santiago is a very large city in which many simultaneous problems or problems separated in time and space can occur; which will unquestionably impede absolute control over the entire area. Hence, it will be necessary to subdivide the sectors assigned to each group, adopting a deployment of the resources based on their specific situation, and under the control of decentralized commands; attaching special importance to the critical areas (settlements, road-blocks, etc.).

3. In addition to this physical occupation of "critical points," which must occur during the day, there must be an effective, constant control of the rest of the area using motorized patrols.

4. The deterrent effect of the use of the resources will depend basically on the intelligence activity carried out previously by each group, in order to determine the measures to be adopted under each circumstance; which will range from peaceful, deterrent, preventive action against leaders in neighborhoods or settlements to their detention if necessary.

Intelligence Plan

(Annex to the Internal Security Plan)

Maps 1: 500,000, IGM, 1975 edition

Plan of Santiago, Scale 1: 25,000, IGM, 1975 edition

Plan of Greater Santiago "EURA", Scale 1: 25,000, IGM, 1975 edition

I. General Situation

A. Situation of the Adversary

1. In the external area

International Marxism, led by the government of the Soviet Union, has intensified the international propaganda campaign against the Chilean Military Government, acting mainly in the area of the international agencies and through Chilean politicians in exile, for the purpose of achieving political, economic, and diplomatic isolation, and seeking the overthrow of the present military regime as soon as possible.

The foregoing has been proven by the constant, coordinated demonstrations held in the European countries, the United States of America, and certain Latin American countries.

2. In the internal area

a. The foregoing activities are closely linked with internal events generated by trade union organizations and political parties in abeyance, which have combined in different organizations inspired and led by well-known former politicians from the Christian Democratic Party, the Communist Party, and the Catholic Church, with the extremist conciliatory spirit of Msgr Fresno, archbishop of Santiago, who continues to act against the government, basically through the Vicariates of Solidarity, Universities, and Workers Pastoral Action.

b. The aforementioned activities have been translated into the misnamed "peaceful protests," the basic goals of which are to halt the normal course of national events and achieve the downfall of the government.

c. The extremist groups have taken advantage of the situation described previously to produce and give the impression on internal chaos, through violent action; which has been widely publicized abroad, through the great deployment of foreign news media accredited in our country for the periods prior and subsequent to the "acts" of protest.

B. Mission and Intention

Mission

To continue the confrontations, intensifying their frequency, scope, and effect, as follows:

Through an active national and international propaganda, both overt and clandestine, to attempt to discredit the political authorities and their policies, fostering passive resistance with expressions of protest.

To take action for political isolation, through national and international agencies, and representatives of foreign countries, as well as of the Church, to implement the actions of the Communist Party and protest against antisubversive measures to maintain public order and a political recess.

To seek massive trade union and student participation in order to succeed in giving the impression of internal chaos.

To engage in action for intimidation, selective terrorism, and destruction of mass transportation and SSUUPP resources.

To heighten vandalism and confrontations with the forces of order and/or the Armed Forces, seeking victims, as a result of their reaction, for subsequent propagandistic exploitation.

To seek the isolation of settlements and critical zones, as a demonstration of the ineffectiveness of the adversary and a protection of bases for their acts.

To develop a backup infrastructure in rural areas, so as to continue to undermine the Army's connections with communications, railroad, and highway routes.

Finally, to create the conditions, within a rather brief period of time, for the implementation of the [words missing from text].

C. Basic Assumptions

1. That the widespread subversive action that occurs will not coincide with external aggression.
2. That the resources originating in the different institutions that are placed at the disposal of the Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency will be provided in a timely manner and in the stipulated magnitude.
3. That legal provisions will be issued to grant authority to the Zone Chief in State of Emergency and for the use of the Armed Forces.
4. That the government, for political reasons, will not preclude the action of certain intelligence resources.

II. Mission and Intention

A. Mission

1. Of Internal Security

To maintain control of the jurisdictional zone, ensuring the normal operation of public and private activities, preventing an upset in public order and damage

or danger to national security; using essentially for this purpose the Forces of Order and Public Security, and planning the possible use of the Armed Forces resources in extremely serious situation that cause jeopardy to the institutional order of the republic.

2. Of Intelligence

a. With the subordinate intelligence resources, to seek the necessary information for the JZEERM command.

b. Through requests to the national intelligence agencies and other national defense institutions, to seek the information required to complement what is specified in "a."

3. Of Counterintelligence

a. To engage in counterintelligence operations that will ensure the planning and execution of action in coordination with Special Operations aimed at neutralizing the notable activists.

b. To protect the resources themselves through the implementation of counterintelligence and military security measures in force.

B. Intention

1. With the subordinate intelligence resources, and through requests to non-dependent agencies, to engage, after the dissemination of the plan, in seeking information in a decentralized manner, giving priority to the following areas:

a. To identify the most notable activists, in both the student sector, and the settlement and trade union sectors.

b. To ascertain the likelihood of the materialization of the adversary's potential.

c. To determine the most likely type, sites, and dates of subversive events to be held.

d. Deployment and organization of the adversary in settlements and other locations considered to be critical points.

e. Backup infrastructure available to the adversary in rural areas, planned as bases of support for the urban action.

f. ECSO neutralization of the most notable activists in both settlements and the trade union and/or student sectors.

2. Putting into effect counterintelligence operations and military security measures in force, and, in particular, making certain of personnel security.

C. Phases (EEI)

1. EEI common to all phases

- a. What persistence will the subversive acts have?
- b. Which urban or rural areas have they planned for their bases of operations?
- c. Will the opposition resources act together or in an isolated manner?
- d. Possible targets for sabotage or attacks by the adversary?
- e. How much support will they have from the civilian population?
- f. Will they receive backing from abroad for their action, and through what means?
- g. Where will the adversary's center of gravity materialize?

2. First Phase (from the dissemination of the plan to the end of the planning of jurisdictional areas)

- a. Will they hold peaceful marches and/or gatherings?
- b. Will they adopt procedures that are more technified than the previous ones?
- c. Will they instigate attacks on the forces of order and/or the Armed Forces?
- d. Will they interrupt traffic with human barriers and seizures of premises?

3. Second Phase (from the time that police procedures prove insufficient until the end of the stand-by status in effect)

- a. Will the adversary reinforce his strength and his procedures?
- b. What special action has been discovered on the part of the adversary?
- c. What vulnerability does the adversary show?

III. Missions for the Units

A. Common to all phases

1. Subordinate units

- a. To determine rural areas that could be planned as bases of support for urban action.
- b. To find the origins of pamphlets or flyers that may be circulating in support of the subversive action.

- c. To determine the adversary's capacities, limitations, and vulnerabilities.
- d. To find and determine effects of the adversary's psychological operations on our own forces.
- e. To put into effect the counterintelligence and military security operations in force.

2. Requests

- a. To identify the most notable activists in both the political, student, and trade unions sectors and the settlement sector.
- b. To determine meeting places of leaders associated with subversive acts.
- c. Possibility of a national strike, including possible actions by agencies and possible dates.
- d. To determine rural areas that may be planned as bases of support for urban action.
- e. To determine the adversary's capacities, limitations, and vulnerabilities, as well as the size of his support.
- f. To report on the attitude of the main trade unions and other sectors toward the strike and/or protest action.
- g. Listening, locating, and interfering in the citizen's band and the radio ham band, depending on availability.
- h. To find and determine effects of the adversary's psychological operations on our own forces.
- i. To report on the sector on which the adversary may apply his center of gravity.

B. First Phase (from the dissemination of the plan until the end of the planning of jurisdictional areas)

1. Subordinate units

- a. To determine meeting places of directors and/or leaders involved in subversive action.
- b. To seek information on the adversary in order to determine the act to be carried out and the likely date.
- c. To determine most sensitive "areas" within the anticipated critical points.

d. To determine possible "areas" susceptible to sabotage and attacks by the adversary.

e. To identify the possible sites for distribution of a large number of "pamphlets" and "miguelitos."

f. To detect potential acts of sabotage against SSUPP facilities and/or military barracks.

g. To execute the security measures in force.

h. To fulfill the EEI common to both phases.

3. Requests

a. To neutralize the most notable activists in both the political and the student, trade union, and settlement sectors.

b. To report the activities carried out by the different sectors involved in acts of subversion.

c. Control of the entry of foreign correspondents into national territory.

C. Second Phase (from the time when police procedures prove insufficient until the end of the stand-by status in effect)

1. Subordinate units

a. To continue reporting on the subversive activities being carried out in their jurisdictional area.

b. To maintain control of the critical points, particularly SSUUPP facilities.

c. To control the execution of the security measures in force.

2. Requests

1. To continue neutralizing the subversive activists.

2. To continue reporting on the activities of the different sectors involved in acts of subversion.

X. Common Matters

1. The personnel detained during the first phase will be sent to the National Guard following interrogation.

2. During the second phase, to the incarceration centers that are available.

3. Constant coordination must be maintained among the intelligence resources of the various jurisdictional zones, exchanging the pertinent information.

4. The UUSS must maintain constant contact with the volunteer agencies in their respective area, in order to procure information.

5. The maximum information must be procured in the civic action operations.

IV. Administrative and Logistical Matters

A. Administrative

According to Master Plan

B. Logistical

According to Master Plan

V. Liaison, Coordination, and Command

A. Liaison

According to Liaison Plan

H. Coordination

1. It will be carried out through the representatives of the various intelligence agencies (extra-institutional as well as institutional) in the General Headquarters of the Zone Headquarters in State of Emergency.

2. With DINE, to plan psychological action for the troops themselves.

C. Command

Dept II of the CG of the JZEERM, in CGCES (MDN).

2909

CSO: 3348/356

STUDENT MOVEMENT LEADERS DISCUSS STUDENT ACTIVISM

Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 11-17 May 87 pp 26-27

[Article by Juanita Rojas: "Silent But Active"]

[Text] An end to intervention, the ouster of delegated rectors and the departure of Pinochet: These were the demands that thousands of university students shouted throughout Chile last year. Marches, assemblies, strikes and even confrontation with the repressive forces of the regime marked the student mobilization during what was called "the decisive year." In contrast, the early months of 1987 have been characterized by a silence that for many is a sign of immobility. ANALISIS has endeavored to learn what young people in higher education are doing, what the leaders of the federations elected in a democratic fashion think and whether the problems no longer exist or whether it is only a matter of a "tactical retreat," as one official shrewdly remarked.

Results of the surveys show that while there is some degree of apathy among students--as in the rest of the country--their silence is not a symptom of inactivity. "The attrition of last year was very great and we must catch a new wind in order to continue," said one young student at the University of Chile Law School. Such is the general feeling. The battle waged in recent years by students has not been easy. They have borne the greatest burden of the mobilization. The cost was paid in expulsions, arrests and even deaths and the goals proposed were not achieved: Pinochet is still in power, there are still delegated rectors and the economic suffocation has reached a climax.

History

The difficulties for the student movement began on 11 September 1973, when an attack was made on the organizations representing them, and the persecution against those identified with the left meant an atmosphere of fear that it was difficult to overcome.

In a desire to show token participation, the regime created ad hoc student organizations and appointed officials among their followers, which had all the economic support and protection of the designated authorities. In a slow process that meant, first of all, breaking down the barrier of fear, the university students dissenting from the official position began to organize in different bodies, mainly cultural workshops. There gradually emerged the Democratic Committees and pressure to elect their representatives directly and

freely became stronger. First came the course delegates, then the school delegates and finally, the first university schools with truly representative Student Centers.

At a time when nearly all the universities had managed to elect their intermediate officials to the federations designated by the regime, there was no choice but to admit defeat. Plebiscites to change the statutes and consequently, the manner of naming the leaders resulted in the fact that university students gained democratic federations throughout the country. From then on, the battle of the young people was aimed at achieving recognition of their organizations by intervening authorities and defending their representatives from the attacks and persecution of which they had been the victims.

With democratic student federations, the goal was then to democratize the university. Approaching the academic community and officials so that they might all join together in the fight to elect their authorities was also difficult. However, those accomplishments came about at the beginning of last year, when, in the midst of the massive protests by students, the voices of many professors were heard making their demands and achieving democratic elections in many departments and some schools of the universities. The questions thus arise: What happened?

Beginning Anew

"We must learn from our mistakes. We are taking back the federations after a long, enormous, rich cultural task. Once we have gained that ground, we shifted our concern to the election of student centers and the federation, giving up the cultural and artistic work. And although the circumstances the country was experiencing make it understandable. I believe it was a mistake," says the president of the University of Chile Student Federation, German Quintana. For the president of the University of Santiago Federation, Cristian Berrios, there can be no doubt about it: "Just as CONEDUC said, education and culture have been destroyed in Chile. Consequently, we students must play an important role in winning back that terrain, showing that the student movement not only responds to assault by the dictatorship with direct confrontation, but also that it can do so in other fields."

It is a difficult time, as leaders admit. The problems are the same and even more serious than last year. The number of students rejecting the system imposed in the universities and wanting democracy is not smaller; on the contrary. But a great part of the mobilizing power has been lost. "In the universities, we shall have to give encouragement, promote activities in which the students see they are truly represented. Then we shall be able to strengthen our organizations and project onto the student movement the role it has always had in Chile. We are going through a period of lethargy, which is also happening throughout the country, but that does not mean we shall take positions as some believe, looking at what is happening in the country from the gallery," says Alex Figueroa, president of the Federation of Catholic University Students (FEUC).

The lack of ability to mobilize support of the student federations was sadly demonstrated in March. At the CONFECH meeting held on 6 and 7 March, a rich program of mobilizing activities was drafted. Very few students actively joined in and in many cases, the events scheduled simply were not held. "The problem was that in remaining alone in the fight against the dictatorship, merely in the area of direct confrontation, we became weak. We suffered great defeats because we did not take the right approach. To say 'Down with Pinochet' and 'Down with the delegate rector' is still a proper demand, but we would never achieve it with a 2-week strike. And since we made no partial demands, sectorial claims, having left them out, there was nothing left but defeat," says Quintana. This opinion is shared by Berrios when he says: "Last year, we spoke of mobilizing around the central point of intervention. We left out things that affected students more directly, such as tax credits, scholarships, the firing of professors. There is great potential here. We must go further with these issues and turn the present situation around."

"We must take student democracy further, not only as a slogan, but rather, take the dialogue to the rank and file. It must be the students themselves through their delegates, student centers and assemblies, who express their concerns and also define what they want to do and how," Berrios emphatically adds.

Participation seems to be the formula shared by everyone to overcome the bad situation. According to Figueroa, "the time of beating our breast and admitting guilt is past. There are obvious signs that show that an awakening is taking place here and the country will soon hear from the university students."

Mobilizing Rock

A quick look at what in recent months are and have been the main concerns of Santiago students proves that the activities that have had the massive backing of students are precisely the ones revolving around music, literature and recreation. Participating in them are the same students who marched in the streets last year, but they are joined by new students. Rock music is the greatest attraction.

"There is now a musical purpose with which young people identify. If in one week we can get together nearly 3,000 students for a rock festival, when only 500 will go to a political event, then we can't go wrong," Quintana says.

But this must not lead one to confusion. The young people who enjoy rock music and soccer games are not indifferent to national problems or those of the university. "The floats and jokes of the Semana Mechona made it clear how much political significance students give to such events," Quintana adds. At the University of Santiago, the Student Federation sponsors a campaign to help students economically when they did not receive student credit. Among the activities are collections on buses, visits to towns, discussion groups, plays and the eternal rock festivals.

While at the USACH the critical economic situation is condemned through this type of campaign, the president of the Federation of Catholic University Students, Alex Figueroa, announces imminent changes: "We are going to make it clear to the authorities that we do not accept the criteria governing the administration of the university at the present time, the tariffs, the price of registration, and so on. Perhaps the provincial headquarters will speak out sooner than expected," he says.

11,464

CSO: 3348/314

DISTURBANCES TAKE PLACE IN NARINO DEPARTMENT

Curfew Declared in Pasto

PA051627 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jun 87

[Telephone report by Raul Gutierrez from Pasto]

[Excerpts] [Gutierrez] Good evening. Calm has returned to Narino Department tonight. As reported, a curfew beginning at 1900 was decreed in Pasto, which was hit by violent actions involving some 100 instigators at noon today. Some 50 people were detained and 7 charged with hurling explosives at the mayoralty building.

Of the affected buildings, which include the Treasury, Popular Bank, and several establishments in the vicinity of Narino Plaza, the headquarters of the municipal government was the most heavily damaged by the rock throwing. The loss is estimated at 1.5 million pesos. There was calm in the other 55 municipalities of Narino, except for Tumaco.

[Announcer] Raul, do you think the stoppage will end at midnight as scheduled?

[Gutierrez] Yes. As I reported, the police intervened in motor vehicles, on horseback, and on foot after 1 hour of rock throwing. The 24-hour stoppage ended with an initial agreement. According to a communique released by Government Minister [as heard] Cesar Gaviria, a commission has been established which is comprised of the public works, health, education, and mines and energy ministers as well as of members of the fares board and presidential advisers. They will meet in Pasto next Monday and Tuesday to find effective solutions to demands, six in total, presented by organizers of civic stoppages throughout Narino.

At this moment, this city, which is the capital of Narino, looks deserted. It is being patrolled by army units who came from the 3d Brigade to help reestablish public order. The curfew, which will last until 0600 tomorrow, is currently in force.

Bogota Daily Criticizes Stoppages

PA151954 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Jun 87 p 4A

[Editorial: "Who Made the Bombs"]

[Excerpts] The succession of civic stoppages Colombians have suffered allows us to look at, after Pasto, some of the stoppages' common characteristics. They are not peaceful. The agitators use these stoppages, extremists foment them, and they result in large losses.

We are not going to continue deceiving ourselves. The civic stoppages are organized by boards of respectable citizens. Even government representatives have been participating in them lately. The clergy intervenes to try to instill a pacifist attitude in those who promote the stoppages in order to prevent disorder. Nothing has worked. The agitators and leftist political forces, who are not fighting in the mountains with weapons, know how to take advantage of and lead these stoppages to force the people to supply the casualties the agitators need to nurture discontent and produce an environment that promotes their plans.

We ask: Who makes the bombs that are exploding in Pasto? Who is inciting students to occupy the Agrarian Bank in Quibo? They are not the same people who organized the stoppages. They are not part of the participating civic force. They are skillfully manipulated individuals who have been politically instructed ahead of time. They are people who have been coldbloodedly encouraged to influct casualties and cause incalculable damage, thus obtaining results that only favor the subversives.

New stoppages have been announced. One is openly organized by the Patriotic Union and the CUT [United Workers Confederation]; it is secretly being instigated by the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] and the ELN [Army of National Liberation]. They seek to unite Boyaca, Cesar, Bolivar, the two Santanders, and the Arauca intendency. The vast majority of good citizens in these regions must reject the stoppage. They must make their demands throughout the nation, through peaceful means, using the media.

Spokesmen of the extreme left are using these movements to lay the groundwork for the upcoming mayoral elections. These people are interested not in peace, but in war. They are not making progress in peace. They are making progress under a warlike environment. At the beginning of this editorial we asked, who made the bombs? Let us hope that we do not find out who will throw them during new disturbances, mistakenly referred to as civic stoppages.

/9604

CSO: 3348/369

DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING 6, 30 APRIL ELECTIONS, FOLLOW-UP

Youth-Gang Violence

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 11 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

THIS week's general election results seemed to have triggered off gang war style violence between young men from Wilton's Yard - popularly known as the Grave Yard - and Conway.

The youth are accusing each other of supporting opposite parties in the election campaign and fired gun shots for two consecutive days this week in a serious clash at George V. Park (Gardens).

According to eye witnesses, the Conway gang, which is said to be supporters of the St. Lucia

Labour Party and The Progressive Labour Party, is trying to keep the Grave Yard gang away from the Gardens court where both groups have been engaged in 'small goals' football on afternoons.

One eye witness report indicate that violence flared at the Gardens Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, as the gangs brandished stones, knives, cutlasses and guns to drive away each other. There were no reports of injuries.

The Grave Yard gang is said to have backed the UWP Cen-

tral Castries candidate, George Mallet, who defeated the SLP's Velon John and the PLP's Wilcina Haynes at the polls.

Sources close to the gangs say that the Grave Yard youths who were originally Labour, began supporting the UWP as a reprisal for what they claimed was extreme police harassment during the SLP administration of 1979. According to our sources, the Grave Yard youths are also alleging that Velon John sent several of them to jail during his term as a city magistrate.

However, the Conway youths seem to be viewing the change of allegiance at the Grave Yard as a betrayal of 'ghetto' principles, which, our sources say, suggest that 'ghetto' areas should be aligned

to the political party preaching the most pro low class rhetoric.

THE VOICE understands that on Wednesday the confrontation was particularly frightening. One youth fired shots from a double barrel shotgun and others were in possession of small firearms and other weapons. One eye witness said that so far the mini war seem to be centered on the youths trying to scare each other, rather than hurting each other, but he admits that the situation could escalate into full-scale and prolonged violence between Conway and the Grave Yard.

Police up to Thursday morning said they were not aware of the situation between the gangs, but a spokesman said that the police would look into the matter.

Alleged SLP Wooing of UWP MP's

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 11 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

THE VOICE has confirmed that there were some behind-the-scenes moves to persuade at least two elected politicians to switch party allegiances in order

to upset the balance of power in last Monday's closely fought general elections. But the moves failed.

Avril's investigations reveal that agents of the St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) have made advances to Louis George and Gregory Avril, both of whom won seats for the United Workers Party (UWP).

George, the current Education Minister, retained the Micoud North constituency and new comer Avril defeated Progressive Labour Party (PLP) Leader, George Odum in Castries South East.

The general elections ended nine eight in favour of the UWP, leaving that party with a majority of just one over the SLP.

According to reliable information reaching us, immediately after clear cut election results became known, SLP agents showed up at the homes of George and Avril to initiate dialogue on the prospects of the two men crossing over to the SLP, which would then form the government.

THE VOICE was unable to get details of the proposals made to the UWP members but when contacted, George confirmed that some "guys" did come to speak with him during the early hours of Tuesday morning.

He said no one told him flatly that he should cross the floor, but, according to him, any sensi-

ble person would infer that switching sides was the essence of the conversation.

George said that he only listened to the "guys" and never made any comment until they left, promising to continue the discussion in Castries the following day. But he had not seen them nor had he heard from them since.

George said that he was aware that his name was being implicated in rumours of secret talks among politicians in the wake of the close outcome at the polls. He said that he had even received telephone calls from overseas expressing concern and the mood in his constituency was "tantamount to hostility" towards him.

George stressed that he had no intention, desire or inclination to join any other party, since such a move would be a betrayal of the trust which was placed in him by his constituents.

Avril was not available for comment.

Meanwhile, the new session of parliament will be opened on Monday following this week's general elections. During the session, Governor General Sir Allen Lewis will deliver the Speech from the Throne.

Sources say SLP leader Julian Hunte will be sworn in Monday as leader of the Opposition.

Hunte Denial

Castries THE VOICE in English 15 Apr 87 p 14

[Text]

LEADER of the St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP), Julian Hunte, has denied that he was personally involved in any move to persuade certain United Workers Party (UWP) politicians including Education Minister Louis George to join his party.

And Hunte told a public meeting of the SLP Monday night that he would be pursuing legal action against Prime Minister, John Compton, for naming him (Hunte) as one of the SLP members who advised a UWP elected member to cross the floor.

Hunte also announced at the Market Steps meeting that he would also be suing THE VOICE for reporting that his party had sought to woo UWP politicians.

The SLP leader told his audience: "...I want to make it clear that I have asked my solicitors to take THE VOICE to court and tomorrow morning I am asking my solicitors to take Compton to Court and I

want the cases to be heard before the 30th. of the month (election day).

"I am suing Compton tomorrow morning. I am suing him tomorrow morning because I was nowhere down Micoud."

Earlier in the meeting, SLP Secretary, Hilary Modeste, had accused THE VOICE and Radio St. Lucia of irresponsibility for reporting things and not checking the opposite side of the story. Modeste said that at the reported time which the alleged advances were said to have taken place (3 a.m. last Tuesday) all the SLP candidates and officials were at the home of Mr. Hunte.

In denying that he was around the home of UWP's Louis George on the day and time in question, Hunte told the meeting that he would rather die first than stoop to Louis George to persuade him to cross over to the SLP.

But while the UWP was making such charges against SLP, Hunte added, the SLP's Baden Allan (Soufriere) and "other people" were being asked to join the UWP Government. "But we have not said anything, we are just waiting to see which way the wind blows," he said.

The Party Leader said he believed that the time had come to pass legislation prohibiting elected politicians from crossing the floor. "The days for that have long since passed and we are a principled party: we are not involved in that," he stressed.

Hunte also took issue with the Prime Ministers of Dominica and St. Vincent, asking them to mind their own business. It was those two Prime Ministers, he charged, that had advised Compton to go back to the polls.

The SLP had respected the will of the people, Hunte told his audience, and the eight elected SLP members were prepared to

take their seats in the House of Assembly and do the work that they were supposed to do. But, according to Hunte, the UWP was not satisfied with the decision of the people and Compton wanted a two-thirds majority to 'do what he wants with St. Lucians'.

He explained that before Monday's ceremonial opening of parliament, the Prime Minister wrote him a letter asking three things: (1) whether the SLP would agree to W. St. Clair Daniel as Speaker of the House; (2) whether the SLP would nominate a deputy speaker from its side; and (3) whether he (Hunte) would second the resolution in support of the Queen.

Hunte said that he had rejected the nomination of Daniel as Speaker on the grounds that he (Daniel) had never been an impartial Speaker. Instead, he added, the SLP had nominated Joseph Desir, a former Mayor of Castries. But that nomination was defeated.

On the question of a deputy speaker, Hunte said that he had indicated to Compton that the SLP was not interested, since that would have "serious implications" when the House would be called upon to vote.

However, Hunte said, he promptly got up to second the motion pledging allegiance to the Queen.

[THE WEEKEND VOICE of 25 April, page 1, carries an apology to Hunte, reading in part: In the issue of The WEEKEND VOICE for Saturday 11th April, 1987 it was stated in a letter by one G. Fevrier of Micoud, that he saw some SLP fellows in Micoud by the house of Louis George and it was 3 o'clock in the morning. THE VOICE hereby unreservedly withdraws all imputations made against Mr Julian Hunte in this letter and is satisfied that Mr Hunte was not at Micoud at 3 o'clock in the morning or at any other time or by the house of Louis George.]

Pilgrim Attack on Odlum

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 25 Apr 87 p 4

[Text]

MIKEY Pilgrim, the St. Lucia Labour Party Candidate for North-East Castries, views the Progressive Labour Party's decision to contest four seats in Thursday's elections as selfish.

Addressing a public meeting on Chaussee Road, earlier this week, Pilgrim openly attacked his one time political leader, George Odlum, calling him a man with an axe to grind.

The PLP has nominated candidates to contest only four constituencies. Pilgrim is a one-time deputy leader of the party.

While Pilgrim saw a legitimate reason for the PLP running candidates in South and South-East Castries, since, according to him, the party "is very strong" in those two areas, he was also of the opinion that the party had opted to play a "spoiler role" in the other two areas.

He said that the PLP's gamble in especially North-East Castries was to split the votes and block any chance of him (Pilgrim) winning that seat.

Pilgrim lost the last elections to newcomer, Stephenson King of the United Workers Party, in what was seen as one of the biggest upsets in the nine-eight UWP victory. King polled 2,411 votes to Pilgrim's 1,772.

In a tone and temperament uncharacteristic in the previous election campaign, Pilgrim chided the political campaigning of both Odlum and Prime Minister, John Compton.

If Odlum had an axe to grind, Pilgrim continued, "tell him to confront me personally...but don't allow the people of St. Lucia to suffer."

According to Pilgrim, Odlum would have done better if he had instructed his supporters to throw their weight behind the SLP to remove Compton.

He said "...if the leader of the PLP was interested in the workers of this country, he would direct his supporters to support the St. Lucia Labour Party in the drive to remove Compton from office."

"If he did this I believe the people of this country would forgive him for all the sins he committed in bringing down the Labour Party Government. If he did this I am sure the St. Lucia Labour Party would embrace him because it would have been an act in the interest of the people of this country."

Pilgrim issued a call for all PLP supporters to show more allegiance to their country than to their political leader, saying that the elections were crucial and critical.

Hunte Post-Election Comments

Castries THE VOICE in English 6 May 87 p 1

[Text]

LEADER of the opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP), Julian Hunte, has said that his party will cooperate with the ruling United Workers Party (UWP) only on matters of interest to the people of the country.

Hunte, speaking Tuesday at the first public meeting of the SLP since Thursday's general elections, also predicted another general election within six months.

On the question of co-operating with the UWP administration Hunte said:

Off (Prime Minister) Compton brings something in parliament in the interest of the people of St. Lucia, we won't say no, there is no problem about cooperating, no problem at all. What we are saying is that we want to know that the Government is accountable to parliament and that Cabinet will not do what it wants and then foist it on the people of St. Lucia, it must come to parliament.

Hunte stressed that the role of his party would be to ensure that there was accountability in parliament. He said that the things that Compton had gotten on with in the past, he would no longer get on with now because the eight parlia-

mentarians of the SLP would make sure that he did what he was supposed to do in the interest of the country.

Hunte also called for continued support for his SLP in the drive to form the next government. He said:

"We believe that there will be elections within another six months and we must ask you to bear with us because we are going to continue the fight, we will continue to have our public meetings, we will continue to organise ourselves on the ground..."

Earlier in the meeting, George Regis, who narrowly defeated the UWP's Ira d'Auvergne by six votes after some confusion for the Anse-

la-Rayé/Canaries constituency, said he had seen numerous cases of electoral irregularities in his electoral district on polling day.

He said he knew of two women who were allowed to vote on the same identification card; he had seen two people who he knew to be mentally ill being allowed to vote; and he was in possession of what he said was "substantial evidence" that someone was registered and issued with a new I.D. card the day before elections.

Regis also accused the UWP of openly buying votes in a big conspiracy with some presiding officers in his constituency.

Interview With Compton

Castries THE VOICE in English 13 May 87 pp 4, 7

[Text]

PRIME Minister John Compton has expressed the view that the results of last month's two general elections here indicated that St. Lucians had voted for candidates they believed could address their particular local issues. He also said the message coming out of the elections was the need for his party to look to "tomorrow's vote."

In an interview with THE NATION newspapers North American Editor Tony Best the day after the second election (May 1), Compton also spoke about other local issues as well as matters of regional and international interest.

The interview carried in the SUNDAY SUN, sister paper of THE NATION went as follows:

Q: *It's the day after the election and it is also your birthday. Do you consider the election result a good birthday present?*

A: I was hoping that the people would have been more gracious and more magnanimous, but the result is that I have still won. The party has won. The majority is not as good as I would have expected and hoped for. But, still, we won.

Q: *Why this kind of result, the second time around?*

A: I haven't had the time to assess it. In the first case I thought it was party organisation and popular lethargy. The shock of being driven to the brink on the first occasion on April 6 should have moved people, when they went back to the polls, to come out in greater numbers. But the fact is that they did not and we would have to assess that reason. I have not had the time to look at that reason.

Q: *It is often said in St. Lucia that a low poll benefits the UWP. If that is true why didn't your party win more seats?*

A: I heard that but it is not true. In every case, from City Council elections to national elections, the (St. Lucia) Labour Party (SLP) always had its diehards. They have always had more diehards than we; people who are prepared to stand by their party. That's why in low polls they have done well.

Q: *Many people questioned your decision to go back to the polls a second time. They said that you threw the election results in the face of the voters. What's your response?*

A: I think if a government is to work, it must have a mandate. There are some vital issues in St. Lucia to be addressed, and I don't think that they could have been addressed by a government with that sort of majority. Now, we are going to have to lower our sights, trim our sails and work with what we have. The fact is that the number of pieces of legislation we intended to pass will now have to be reconsidered.

For instance, we wanted to have discussions on the question of closer West Indian unity. That could not be properly discussed with the type of majority we have. With respect to that particular issue, we have to put it on the back-burner as it were.

There are other issues which we wanted to look at. We felt that this would have been the first term during which the UWP and the people could get down and look at the constitution and things like that since our independence. Unless we had a different type of majority we could not examine these issues.

Q: *What message did the electorate send to your party and to the St. Lucia Labour Party in the result on April 30?*

A: I don't think the people voted for a strong opposition. I think the people were voting for their local candidates. They voted for candidates they believe can address their particular issues. In most cases, the win of the SLP was very small, very narrow. We targeted, this time around, four of their six seats, and we won one and lost two by very narrow margins.

The message I think is being sent to the party is that we should pay more attention to the local issues; if you want to remain in government and you have big plans, you should not give them the high

priority that we have been giving. We were not looking at tomorrow's vote but were concentrating on tomorrow's generation.

The people have in effect told us that in order to look after tomorrow's generation, we must first look after tomorrow's vote. We are going to have to concentrate on getting tomorrow's vote in order to look after tomorrow's generation.

Q: *Your party currently has a 10-7 lead but depending on what happens in the Anse-la-Raye/Canaries constituency you could end up with a 9-8 majority like before. Should that happen would you form a government and try to run the country that way?*

A: Governments are run by a majority. A majority of one or a majority of 100 is the same majority. You have the numbers to get your important legislation through, such as your budget, and to withstand a vote of confidence. People have run governments in other parts of the world with a minority.

One of the reasons we decided to go back to the people after the April 6 election was the avowed, the expressed policy of the opposition to run confrontation politics. We believed that in order to withstand confrontation politics we should have a big majority. I didn't get it, but I hope their policy does not continue to be confrontation politics because it is going to be very bad for St. Lucia. We have the majority of seats and we have the majority of votes and we can go ahead and run the country.

Q: *What are your priorities for the next two years or so, given your slender majority?*

A: The priorities will be the same. There will have to be economic adjustments. We will have to keep the country moving. Some of the priorities will not be abandoned because of the size of the majority. Some of the things will have to be shifted. One priority of constitutional reform, for instance. It has got to be placed on the back burner.

Clearly, we are going to have to place a lot of emphasis on the economic issues, including the reform in agriculture. There is also the question of the reform in the health service. On top of those, there are the small things, such as the village issues, the roads and services; the things that make an impact on people's lives will have to be paid attention to.

You know, you can build the big dams and the hydro electric power plants but people want their representatives to see that their roads are fixed and extended and that they have a decent water supply. Those are the kinds of things we are going to have to pay attention to.

Q: *What kind of constitutional changes did you have in mind?*

A: We were thinking of further discussions with other OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States). After ten years of independence, we wanted to re-assess our situation. These small islands cannot move into the 21st century as scattered pearls, or specks of dust as we like to call them.

If we think they are scattered pearls, then we should try to bring them into one necklace. We should try to see whether in addressing our policies and our problems together, if we could make our way into the world as a group, one single nation. The world has no time for small countries.

Q: *Could you elaborate on the attitude of the greater world to the states in the Caribbean?*

A: I have noticed a growing sense of impatience with us. Some of them think we are a nuisance. For instance, when we had the Grenada problem the United States paid some attention to it. But once the Grenada situation was removed, I saw a growing impatience, a growing indifference. The CBI (Carib-

bean Basin Initiative) has not been pushed to the extent that we thought it should have been pushed. With one move they have slashed the sugar quota, and aid to these islands is cut. All of these things point to a growing impatience.

Another point to remember is that when we have succeeded in the Caribbean we have acted together. We have done it in cricket, in the university, and in our small ways of industrialisation through CARICOM.

Q: *Did some people in your party grow away from the people, or as some have said, they became too arrogant?*

A: I don't think so. I believe we tried to keep as close to the public as possible. I myself tried and certainly our members who have been in politics for a long time have tried to remain close to the people. If growing arrogance was apparent, it would have been seen in our people who have not been in office for a very long time. You see, those who have been there for a long time have been returned. Those who have lost were the ones who just came.

Q: *The Prime Minister of Barbados, Errol Barrow, has made a somewhat similar point about the need for Caribbean regionalism to be strengthened. Is it that both of you are on the same wavelength?*

A: It is not only Mr. Barrow and myself. I have discerned this attitude among leaders of the Eastern Caribbean, by that I mean countries outside of Jamaica. From Antigua right down to Trinidad and Tobago. For example the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. (A.N.R.) Robinson has suggested that we do something together in the Olympics.

Q: *You have been talking about regionalism and its importance. What are the priority matters that you think should be discussed at the next CARICOM summit?*

A: One of the main things is the regional security system. It has been much criticised, we have to look at the revitalisation of CARICOM. We have to discuss the emphasis on education and we have to get the task forces working to see how we are going to change the emphasis on education. We must look at the area of agricultural marketing as we pursue diversification of agriculture.

Q: *In a conversation with Julian Hunte, the SLP leader, he complained about a right wing dictatorship in St. Lucia. As evidence, he pointed to the country's security system. What's your response?*

A: He can't talk about a right wing dictatorship, because as far as security goes, this country is one of the freest nations anywhere. We have no army. We are a free nation, an independent country and the prime responsibility for our national security must rest with ourselves.

We cannot compromise our independence by looking to countries outside of the Caribbean to deal with external threats. We cannot do it alone, it is a joke to think that a country with 33 men who had some para-military training can protect this country. It is Mr. Hunte who has been talking about police and the military.

Q: *Let's go back to the elections. Do you believe that investors could interpret the results as a sign post leading to political instability in St. Lucia, and therefore stay away?*

A: I hope not. It really depends on how the opposition conducts itself. If they conduct themselves in a confrontational manner, if you have a government with a slender majority confronted by an opposition, then we would see. I think we will have to wait and see.

If the opposition conduct themselves in a constitutional manner, being vigilant and by keeping the government on its toes, and if they conduct themselves in a constructive manner, then I don't think the situation would change. After all, there are other countries with similar problems.

SLP Shadow Cabinet

Castries THE VOICE in English 13 May 87 p 7

[Text]

THE opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) has named nine Shadow Ministers who will be the Party's chief spokesmen on social and economic matters.

Party and Opposition Leader, Julian Hunte, who brought the SLP close to victory in the general elections of April 6 and 30 by winning eight seats to the United Workers Party's nine, holds the responsibility for Finance, Planning, Development, Home Affairs and External Affairs.

Deputy Political Leader, Peter Josie, has been allocated the portfolios of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives, while Evans Calderon will be responsible for Health.

The remaining Shadow Ministers are: Baden Allain - Communications and Works; Neville Cenac - Community Development, Broadcasting, Informa-

tion and Social Affairs; George Regis - Education, Culture, Youth and Sports; Senator Michael Pilgrim, - Trade, Industry and Tourism; and Senator Velon John - Legal Affairs.

Hunte, Josie, Lesmond, Calderon, Allain, Cenac and Regis are all elected members of the House of Assembly, while Pilgrim and John failed to win their seats in the last two elections.

The only SLP elected member who was not named as a party spokesman was Cecil Lay, although he has been in parliament as an SLP opposition member for the last seven years.

Josie, Lesmond, Calderon and Pilgrim held key ministries in the ill-fated SLP administration of 1979-1982 and, therefore, possess some experience in governmental activities. Cenac served as opposition leader from 1982-87, but Allain, Regis and John are newcomers to politics.

Josie Attack on Odlum

Castries CRUSADER in English 9 May 87 p 8

[Text]

The North East Castries constituents were taken aback to hear the Deputy Leader of the St. Lucia Labour Party launch a vicious attack on the Leader of the Progressive Labour Party, George Odlum.

Most listeners felt that the attack was unnecessary and irrelevant to the S.L.P. campaign. But they did not bargain for the Macchiavelian streak in Peter Josie. Only astute political observers realise that although Peter Josie seemed to be attacking Odlum, the real focus of the attack was on his Party Colleague, Mikey Pilgrim who was contesting the Castries North East Seat.

This time no one could say that George Odlum left his

constituency to come to Castries to fight against Mikey Pilgrim. It was Peter Josie this time who left his Vieux Fort seat and ensured that Mikey Pilgrim did not win the seat. It was clear to all that Pilgrim needed to pull as many P.L.P. votes as possible in order to make any impact on the Castries North East seat. Peter Josie himself was acutely aware of this. His Macchiavelian instincts drove him to visit the constituency and speak on Pilgrim's platform but the objective of the speech was to alienate the same P.L.P.

vote which Pilgrim needed so desperately. His attack on the P.L.P. Leader was designed to annoy the sizeable P.L.P. vote into voting against Pilgrim. The reaction to Josie's diatribe was instant. The P.L.P. supporters resented the attack and the anti Pilgrim feeling surged. The S.L.P. leadership saw Josie's move clearly and delegated Clarence Rambally to do a rescue mission by praising Odlum profusely in his speeches in order to bring the P.L.P. vote. Unfortunately for Pilgrim he was unable to capture the necessary level of P.L.P. votes to win the

seat.

Peter Josie enjoyed little more than a Pyrrhic victory because although Pilgrim was defeated and could offer no challenge to Josie's Leadership thrust, the failure to win the seat has cost the S.L.P. a chance at Power which might well elude them hereafter. The S.L.P. must fight hard to contain their leadership struggle and not permit personal leadership ambitions to keep the party out of power as it has done in the 30th April Election.

Compton on Unity Government

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 May 87 p 1

[Text]

PRIME Minister, John Compton, does not think that the close outcome of last month's two general elections pointed to public desire for the formation of a government of national unity, because the harmony of views and ideas does not exist among local politicians.

In a discussion organised by Canaradio and broadcast to the region Thursday night, freelance journalist, Ricky Singh, felt that the nine-eight results returned by the electorate on both April 6 and 30 indicated that the St. Lucian people were sending signals for national unity.

But Compton disagreed, arguing that the allocation of seats in the two elections did not present an accurate picture of the distribution of votes.

He explained: "You have to go beyond the nine-eight. You have to look at the percentage of the electorate that voted for a party. The divisions are just artificial...but the fact is we (United Workers Party) have secured ourselves 53 per cent of the vote against 37 per cent for the opposition. The question of national unity government cannot just come because the Government has not gotten a

sufficient majority. The question of national government must really spring from a willingness of the parties to work together."

According to the Prime Minister, who joined the panel via telephone from Grenada where he was attending the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) meeting, the fact that his party failed to get the majority it desired did not mean that "we are going to have a national unity government and in a few days it goes to pieces."

"There must be some sort of harmony of views, harmony of ideas among the people who are formulating this national unity government and I am afraid that it does not exist in St. Lucia today.

But despite the disharmony in local politics, Compton said, he would be willing to treat some issues as national and work with the opposition in "utmost confidence" in resolving them.

"...I have stated myself that I want to treat certain issues as national issues that are open to debate, not open to division. The question to political initiatives in the Caribbean, I don't think that should be a political issue, the question of economic development should not be treated as a political issue, neither should education, etc, and on these issues I am prepared to take the opposition into my utmost confidence and work with them," the Prime Minister stressed.

The radio discussion also dwelled on the recently reactivated question of Caribbean federation, one of the reasons Compton advanced for wanting a two-thirds majority in the last elections.

But Dr. Neville Duncan, lecturer in Government at the University of the West Indies, the other member of the panel, called for careful consultation with Caribbean peoples before any such federation was attempted by the leaders.

He said: "Two thirds majority or not, constitutional changes or not, there will be no real progress to regional integration at the regional level until the issue is treated as a genuine national one, involving a bi partisan or multi partisan approach to the question."

"I would like to see more effort made to treat this matter as a national issue and it should end up with a referendum called specifically on this kind of issue after a long process of education and canvassing."

Duncan also chided Compton for being one of the persons dashing the hopes of previous regional integration efforts.

He said: "Mr. Compton himself will be ascribed by the history books as one of the persons causing the failure or contributing to the failure of the 'Little Seven' attempt (the federation of the smaller Caribbean territories) when he came fresh into the movement in the mid sixties...but we are happy that he has changed his position and I think that he is very serious about it."

But Dr. Duncan disagreed with the assumption that a two-thirds majority was a necessary prerequisite for major initiatives in the region.

"...I believe that when carrying out initiatives for the wider region, the opposition party should be fully a part of those initiatives, should be fully consulted, if one wants to have lasting regional initiatives in place..." Dr. Duncan stated, adding that on a broader level, the public in general should also be consulted on these initiatives.

Dr. Duncan saw signs of a desire for change in the St. Lucia election results of the elections, but suggested that the lack of an opposition "in place," may have contributed to the survival of the UWP administration.

"...The St. Lucia Labour Party had moved from a very insignificant position to becoming the major opposition party now in St. Lucia," Dr. Duncan said, describing this as a tremendous achievement.

"I would think that the reason... there have been no big moves in St. Lucia against the UWP, against the ruling party when compared to say Trinidad and Tobago or Barbados, was partly because the opposition was not yet in place..." Dr. Duncan added.

Hunte on SLP Role

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 May 87 p 1

[Text]

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, MAY 15 - St. Lucian opposition leader, Julian Hunte, says his St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) will not be going out of its way to bring down Prime Minister John Compton's Government with its slender one-seat majority in Parliament.

"That is not our role at this point in time," Hunte told CANA here.

The St. Lucian people, he said, had twice in less than a month in general elections given Compton's United Workers Party (UWP) nine parliamentary seats and the SLP eight.

Compton called the second election seeking a bigger mandate.

However, Hunte, in Jamaica for a meeting of the West Indies

Cricket Board of Control, made clear that the SLP's wish to avoid a third general election within a short period of time was not a licence for Compton's administration to do as it pleased.

"While we are committed to working in the best interest of St. Lucia, the ball is in the court of the government."

"A lot will depend on whether there is room for

greater cooperation and support of the opposition," he said. "Our interest is that St. Lucia gets the best it can out of the existing situation."

Hunte said the election result indicated that the SLP was on the up after the leadership crisis that led to the fall of the administration it formed in 1979.

"There is an election in five years time and we will be looking forward to that," he said. (CANA)

Speculation on Post-Compton Era

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 May 87 p 5

[Article by Ricky Singh]

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS - St. Lucia Prime Minister, John Compton's statement that this was his last term in office before retiring from active politics has sparked speculation about his successor as leader of the United Workers Party and of the future of the UWP itself.

Compton, who turned 61 earlier this month as St. Lucians were considering the implications of yet another one-seat majority Government, has brushed aside the possibility of either fresh general elections before year-end or of his giving up the UWP's leadership soon.

The view is widespread that without Compton, the UWP's chances of being back in power are quite remote.

Compton responded to both the suggestion of possible new elections in six months made by leader of the Opposition St. Lucia Labour Party, Julian Hunte, and the likelihood of his Health and Labour Minister, Romanus Lansiquot, being chosen to succeed him.

"Mr. Hunte and his party can speculate about new elections in six or nine months. It's a matter for them," he said.

"I have led the country into two general elections in less than a month. It is true that on April 30 my party again obtained a one-seat majority, as was the case on April 6. The fact is that we won and got 52 per cent of the votes. I have no intention of rushing into fresh elections."

On the question of handing over the leadership of the centre-right UWP, which he has been heading since its formation, some 23 years ago, Compton said that "it is far too early to talk about this. It is not among my priorities right now. In any case, it is a matter for the UWP to decide."

Was it likely that the leadership issue would be discussed when the UWP holds its convention in October this year?

"I cannot say," replied Compton adding that at the present time he was concentrating on "the preparation of the Throne Speech for a new session of Parliament."

As he indicated to CANA, Compton plans on arranging for Governor General, Sir Allen Lewis, to declare open a new session of the St. Lucia Parliament following his return to Castries later this week after participating in the annual Board of Governors meeting of the Caribbean Development Bank in St. George's.

The Throne Speech, will be the last to be delivered by Sir Allen, who went into retirement yesterday.

Compton, is also working on the presentation of the 1987 national budget. With the debate on the budget completed, the Prime Minister will be leaving for the Heads of Government meeting of the seven member Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in the British Virgin Islands from May 25-29.

He intends to "continue to work for a political union among the countries of the OECS, even though my party did not get the two-thirds parliamentary majority we sought."

Compton said that "political unity remains very much on my agenda, and I intend to pursue this goal."

On his return from the OECS summit, Compton said that he would have to devote attention to ensuring that all the necessary arrangements have been made for St. Lucia to host the eighth Caribbean Community (CARICOM) summit June 30-July 3.

"As you can see," declared Compton "with such an agenda, I do not have time to think about a successor. It is far too early."

When his party won a slender 9-8 majority on April 6, in contrast to the 14-3 majority it held prior to the dissolution of Parliament, Compton advanced nine reasons why he had to take his country into another general elections on April 30, hoping for a "comfortable or two-thirds majority."

The reasons included Compton's expressed fears of attempts by his opponents to persuade UWP parliamentarians to defect to the SLP and so bring down his Government.

In the wake of the UWP's defeat in 1979 Compton had publicly disclosed his intention to quit active politics and devote more time to his family and business.

But he continued to lead the UWP, which was back in power within three years, in 1982. Now he has once again said this would be his final term.

Both the chairman of the UWP, Henry Giraudy, and the party's deputy leader and also deputy Prime Minister George Mallet, are older than Compton and neither is regarded as a possible successor as the party leader.

The UWP's general secretary, John Bristol, as well as the current chairman of the party's Youth Arm, Stephenson King, have also been ruled out.

"Romanus Lansiquot," said a St. Lucian school principal, "is good at public relations, that's his field. He is an articulate public speaker, but I doubt that Compton himself would wish to be succeeded by him."

The general feeling is that the UWP may be heading for a crisis with Compton's decision to quit active politics, and a time when there is evidence of growing popular support for the SLP.

At the April 30 elections, the UWP's percentage of the valid votes increased marginally by less than one percent (0.8) to about 53 per cent, compared with a 2.2 per cent increase for the SLP which ended with a 40.4 per cent but with the same eight of the 17 seats.

Hunte has since declared that "without a doubt, it is Labour next time, and we feel this could be well before the UWP's five-year term ends in 1992..." (CANA)

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FAIRNESS OF ELECTORAL PROCESS, CALL FOR REFORM CITED

Report on 6 April Vote

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 11 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

MONDAY'S general elections were free, fair and clean.

That's the opinion of Chief Elections Officer, Mr. Clair Daniel, who also thinks that the trouble-free mood of our elections can serve as an example to the outside world.

Speaking to THE VOICE this week, Daniel said that there was no

question of any irregularity or problems with the law.

"I think this was a free and fair election...very clean, everybody behaved well," Daniel said.

However, Daniel could not give a clear-cut reason for the relatively low voter turnout. He said people just did not go and vote and there were many reasons. "My guess is as good as anybody else's," he said.

Preliminary figures from the Electoral Office reveal that only 60.22 per cent of registered voters cast their ballots.

A total of 83,614 people were registered; 50,350 voted. The United Workers, which won nine seats received 51.18 per cent of the vote. The St. Lucia Labour Party won the remaining eight seats and captured 37.10 per cent of the vote.

The Progressive Labour Party failed to win a seat and polled 8.96 per cent. Of the total ballots cast, 2.76 per cent were rejected.

Statistics for the final count of the results and Daniel's election report will be made public at a later date.

Report on 30 April Balloting

Castries THE VOICE in English 6 May 87 p 1

[Text]

DESPITE expressions of concern by Electoral Commission Chairman Vernon Cooper about the high number of rejected ballots in the April 6 elections, the figure was again substantial in last Thursday's re-run.

Cooper announced after the first election that the Commission planned to meet its staff to determine whether they understood what was required of them in determining whether a ballot was spoilt.

Cooper had also suggested that the political parties should spend more time educating people, particularly those in the rural areas on the correct procedures for voting.

On April 6, there were 1,388 spoilt votes in the 17 constituencies, representing 2.7 per cent of the total votes cast. Last Thursday, there was a slight decrease the number falling to 1334 or 2.52 per cent.

Spoilt votes represented 2.57 percent and 2.20 percent of the total votes cast in the elections of 1979 and 1982 respectively.

In the 1982 election, Vieux-Fort South had the lowest number of spoilt votes a paltry 11, while Soufriere registered 17 and Dennery South 28.

Castries South East topped the list in 1982 with 211 rejected ballots while Micoud North registered 112.

In last month's two elections, there were some interesting figures on spoilt ballots. For instance, according to the preliminary counts, Vieux-Fort North recorded the lowest number of rejected ballots on April 6 (a paltry 20), but this jumped to 83 in last Thursday's elections. Soufriere's fine record went haywire from 87 in the first election to 128 in the second.

At Vieux-Fort South, there was a remarkable turn around, 70 in the first election and just 22 in the second, while in Castries South East the figures went from 182 in the first election to 108 in the second.

Castries Central recorded 58 and 52 spoilt votes respectively on April 6 and April 30 while in Dennery South the figure went from 89 to 11.

Compton Reply To Charges

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 May 87 p 1

[Text]

PRIME Minister John Compton has rejected opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) charges of outside interference in the elections in the country, referring to complaints of involvement of Jamaican and Dominican political activists on the side of the UWP.

"...It is according to what you call outside interference. Sister parties help other parties. We have helped other parties in the Caribbean.

party's machinery should always be ready and should be in step with the Government," Compton said.

"We're a member of the (Caribbean) Democratic Union, and when we have elections we seek help from them. I do not define this as outside interference," Compton said.

He attributed the UWP's failure to secure a larger majority in Parliament on failings in its organisation.

"...The party's organisation was not up to the elections, although the government had performed extremely well...the lesson I have learnt is that the

CRUSADER Criticism

Castries CRUSADER in English 23 May 87 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

The electoral Commission is a shadowy body which only comes under scrutiny every five years at election time. Many people ignore the appointments to the Commission and tend to take such appointments "or trust" until the election fever builds up. It is generally accepted that the Chairman of the Commission should favour the Government which appoints him. In the past no one found fault with the appointment of a Chairman who might have hankered after a knighthood and consequently preserved a bias in favour of the ruling party. No one bothered to stress the need for absolute impartiality and integrity in the operations of the Electoral Commission since

twenty odd years of U.W.P. rule has indicated the view that the machinery of Government must always work in favour of the Government. In some ways the Electoral Commission is the only Official organ which is duty bound to operate above the claims of rival Parties.

At present the newly appointed Chairman of the Electoral Commission Mr. Vernon Cooper is going through his first baptism by fire and it is early days to comment of the rôle of the Chairman in ensuring the integrity of the Poll. Having said so, one must concede that he has been prompt and accommodating in responding to requests for inspection and verification. One area,

however, in which most observers expected the new Chairman to use his broom was in the selection of personnel for the conduct of Elections. There is absolutely no pretence at fairness or even-handedness in the selection of Returning Officers, Presiding Officers and Polling Clerks for the various Polling Stations. It seems almost as if these officers are required to present their United Workers Party membership cards before they could be considered for these duties. Almost NINETY FIVE percent of all electoral Officers are strong supporters of the ruling Party. This practice is generally recognised and accepted but it is this crafty selection of personnel which makes it easy for the ruling party to manipulate the Ballot Box.

The "Running Ballot" or the "Travelling Bailot" which the Anse La Raye Elections has exposed is an old device of the United Workers Party. It involves getting a single ballot from the book of ballots being used for the Poll out to the Party Agents before the Poll. This Ballot is used to ensure that a number of paid persons vote with this ballot and return to the agent the blank ballot issued to them inside. The weakness of the running Ballot is in getting it back into the box before the count. It is this failure to get the single ballot back into the box which has let the cat out of the bag on many occasions. But the point here is that the collaboration of electoral officers is necessary in perpetrating such a fraud and the present composition of electoral officers makes such possibilities easy for the ruling party. Perhaps it might be instructive to look ironically at the conduct of the Poll in Communist Cuba where all the work of Returning Officers

and Presiding Officers are done by School children from the Secondary Schools who demonstrate a remarkable detachment and objectivity which contrasts sharply with the situation in St. Lucia today.

By and large the Electoral Officers in St. Lucia are totally biased and dogmatic in their bias. They have scant regard for the rights of the voters. They are strongly prejudiced against illiterate voters and voters who look like labour voters. They indulge in tricks and sleight of hand to confuse certain voters and they go out of the way to facilitate educated or middle and upper class voters who they presume vote for the ruling party. All the worst elements of a vicious class system appears

at the polling stations on polling day. A change of personnel and a programme of instruction should be organised in order to remove this humbug from the business of the voting.

In the last two elections in April the Prime Minister was forced to admit that he welcomed assistance from sister parties in the Caribbean Democratic Union. This assistance extends to the machinery for the conduct of elections and this is highly dangerous. St. Lucians over the past five years have come to expect that Jamaica (and in previous years Barbados) would render some assistance to the ruling party in the conduct of the poll. This is essentially a party affair and the coordination of this party relationship is done by the United States also the funding. Surely the Electoral Commission could insist on its independence above the parties by refusing any assistance of this kind on a partisan basis. In 1982 our Chief Electoral Officer

journeyed to Jamaica unknown to the other parties in the contest allegedly to get some ink. Surely the provision of stocks for the conduct of the poll should be done in a more openly professional manner which leaves little room for speculation about fraud. It is clear that the electoral Commission should cease all clandestine relations with the CDU if the public is expected to respect the integrity of the poll.

It is widely accepted that the registration of voters is the key to the poll. At present there is a strong body of opinion in favour of the view that the voters list is highly inflated and padded even in the face of the fact that a large number of persons who are legally entitled to vote are not on the voters list. The Skullduggery which has gone on in respect of the issue of identity cards is beyond belief. Cameras have been sneaked into areas and private homes for the personal advantage of the U.W.P. candidates wishing to enrol specific persons for special areas. Identity cards have been handed to school children below the voting age by candidates of the ruling party. All these irregularities can only occur because of the unhealthy cosiness and convenience between the personnel conducting the process and the officials of the ruling Party.

The existing voters list is a most corrupt document which neither the Chairman of the Electoral Commission nor the Chief Elections Officer can be proud of. The money which has been spent over the years in preparing this list must of necessity be considered **WASTED MONEY** when one has to consider the number of anomalies and errors of registration on that list. In any constituency

it is possible for agents and candidates to point out close to a hundred mistakes. There is little room for explanation of the fact that a husband and wife living in the same house could be registered in different constituencies, for example, one voting on the Morne and the other in Entrepot. It is easier to interpret this in terms of deliberate fraud than in terms of a genuine error. Persons who voted for years at the same polling station have suddenly been cut adrift and sent far away to vote with no rhyme nor reason. Strangely enough, the list has not been refined or improved over the years. The confusion is greater with time. Is it because the manipulation has increased?

Judging from the comments of the ordinary voter and the high level of public suspicion of both the electoral process and the persons who operate the process it is imperative that a complete review of the electoral process should be undertaken. The United Workers Party is obviously quite happy with the system since it has served to minimise their rapid slide in public support.

The frequent appearance of the Chief Elections Officer on the media drumming into the minds of the electorate that the elections are fair and free must be seen as a defence mechanism. It tells us more about the state of the election machinery. Why has Radio St. Lucia or HTS never seen it fit to have independent persons or opposition members to question the Electoral Office Personnel on the conduct of the elections or the state of the electoral machinery?

The Hypocrites who extol the virtues of the Ballot Box seem to do so with the full awareness that the dice are loaded and it might well be necessary for the public anger and hostility to spill over in order to ensure that the democratic process is really geared to expressing the will of the people.

/9274

CSO: 3298/235

TEXT OF GOVERNOR GENERAL'S THRONE SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

Castries THE VOICE in English 15 Apr 87 pp 4, 9

[Text]

A series of important announcements were made in Governor General Sir Allen Lewis' throne speech at the opening of the new St. Lucia Parliament on Monday.

Sir Allen began by saying that the new session would be a 'truly historic one.' It was. It lasted one day.

The other highlights of the speech:

- new general elections within the shortest possible time.
- his own retirement from the position of Governor General.
- a new Income Tax Bill being prepared to ensure that the tax burden was more equitably distributed;
- a review of the organisation and structure of the public service.

The following is the full text of the Governor General's address:

Mr. President and Members of the Senate

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly

Future generations will look at this session of the Parliament of Saint Lucia as a truly historic one.

Some familiar faces and voices have gone, and their places are taken by others — some of whom have returned to this Honourable House — while six new members have been returned to make their contribution to the proceedings of this Honourable House. To those Honourable Members who, for the first time, have been called to elective service, I extend a warm welcome and share the expectation that their varied experience, drawn from their respective fields of endeavour, will enrich your deliberations.

To those former members who have either not sought elective service, or upon whom electoral favours were not again bestowed, I wish to thank them for their services to St. Lucia, and trust that future generations may view their contributions more kindly and that they will occupy prominent places in the annals of our history for the part they played in the social and economic advancement of St. Lucia.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that you have the distinction of being one of the longest presiding officers in the Commonwealth, and I congratulate you on the confidence which Honourable Members continue to repose in you, by electing you time and again to this high office. The high standard of conduct for which this Honourable House is well renowned, is due in no small measure to the example which you have shown and the guidance which you gave to this House.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I request Honourable Members to note the death of Dr. Claudius Thomas, who served Saint Lucia and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States with distinction for several years as High Commissioner to London, and I am sure that Honourable Members will wish to join my Government in expressing condolences to the family of Dr. Thomas. Those of us who remain must do no less than continue the high ideals for which he lived and to remember with gratitude the contribution he made to the advancement of Saint Lucia in the international field.

In the sphere of international politics, my Government continues to be at peace with all nations and to maintain close and harmonious relationships with all its traditional friends and with all CARICOM countries in particular. In this circle of nations with which my Government maintains close relations, my Government has, by a recent initiative, added Japan, and even at this moment a mission from Japan is in St. Lucia assisting with the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the development of the fisheries resources of St. Lucia.

In July of this year, St. Lucia will for the second time in a decade, be host to the Heads of Government of the CARICOM countries. That St. Lucia has again been so chosen is an indication of the high esteem in which the people of St. Lucia are held. Our visitors are therefore assured of a warm and friendly welcome, and our people will be given an opportunity to extend the hospitality for which they are renowned.

Mr. Speaker, my Government renews its unqualified commitment to Caribbean unity and will continue the discussions which are already in train with the other countries of the O.E.C.S. with a view to establishing a political union of the Eastern Caribbean before the end of this decade.

On the domestic front, my Government will continue with its development programme with the following objectives:

- (1) The promotion of economic growth and development, particularly in those areas which will reduce unemployment;
- (2) The promotion of policies aimed at reducing poverty;
- (3) The promotion of social justice within the entire society.

To this end, the system of taxation which has been given much prominence recently will be thoroughly reviewed, and my Government has already prepared an Income Tax Bill which will be published for public discussion and comment. This Bill is intended to ensure that the tax burden is more equitably shared, while at the same time providing Government with the necessary revenues to carry out its social and economic programmes. Any proposals which meet this goal will be incorporated in the Budget now in the course of preparation.

Particular attention will be given to the stimulation of activities within the private sector, which reward hard work and enterprise, and which are geared towards the promotion of job creation and the encouragement of local entrepreneurs, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

It is the intention of my Government to tackle vigorously the problem of housing, and in this regard the Urban Development Corporation will be appropriately structured and staffed to carry out this task, while tax incentives and fiscal concessions will be given to those local entrepreneurs who construct a minimum of ten houses for sale to the public, with particular attention being given to the needs of the middle and lower income brackets.

Particular attention will also be given to the strengthening of the local entrepreneurial sector, with assistance in the form of management training, the provision of special incentives and the intervention with Commercial Banks to make capital more readily

available, so that the entrepreneurial energies of St. Lucians may be released for participation in the development of St. Lucia. For this purpose, a special section will be created in the National Development Corporation to assist, guide and encourage local investors in the productive sector.

In order to release these energies, certain administrative constraints must be removed. A special section will be created in the Customs for dealing with complaints of the manufacturing sector; exit certificates from the Income Tax office will be available immediately on demand; while the processing of applications for foreign currency will be expedited, with the Banks empowered to process a maximum of US \$1,000 without the Exchange Control requirement having to be met.

The organisation and structure of the Public Services will be reviewed to ensure that they are trained, deployed and motivated to serve the public and contribute to the development of St. Lucia and to this end a Special Review Committee will be established. This Review Committee which will report to Cabinet will, in addition to senior civil servants, include two members of the public, so that the public perception of the Public Services may be taken into account.

These areas must be addressed urgently if St. Lucia is to obtain the maximum mobilisation of its assets, and the maximum participation of its people. This is the aim of my Government. But our assets are few, and however well we mobilise them we cannot, using only our own resources, sustain a rate of economic growth which will be sufficient to provide the basic needs of all our people. In this context, there must be a Government which not only commands the support of the majority of the people of St. Lucia but also has the confidence of foreign Governments, international institutions and foreign investors with whom it must deal. Any Government that cannot command such confidence is open to manipulation to the detriment of the people of St. Lucia, and this cannot be permitted to happen.

Already my Government has discerned what appears to be a 'stand off' and 'wait and see' attitude from important investors with whom it has been dealing. Such an attitude can only impede the development of St. Lucia and inflict damage which can have lasting effect on our social and economic structure. More importantly, it can polarise the society into warring political factions, and erode the political and industrial stability upon which the progress of the last five years has been built.

My Government has therefore, after weighing all the factors involved, decided that it is in the best interest of St. Lucia and all St. Lucians, that the people of St. Lucia should again be consulted and the issue of a strong Government returned to them for determination in accordance with the Constitution therefore, and acting on the advice of the Prime Minister I shall dissolve Parliament forthwith and issue writs for a general election to be held within the shortest possible time permitted by the relevant laws. The appropriate administrative measures are being taken and further announcements will be made as to the date of these Elections.

My Government expects that the people of St. Lucia will continue to act prudently, and in the period leading up to elections, conduct themselves in a manner which will earn us the respect of the world outside, whose attention we shall inevitably attract.

Now I must close on a personal note, though of course, what I am about to say is of national concern.

This is the last time that I shall have the honour and privilege of opening a Session of Parliament as the representative of The Queen.

Late last year, with the consent of the Prime Minister, I sought and obtained Her Majesty's gracious approval that I should relinquish the duties of the office of Governor-General early in the New Year. April 30 was subsequently agreed on as the effective date on which I should demit office.

I wish to thank the Prime Minister and the Government for having afforded me the opportunity of serving The Queen and my Country in this high office. My wife joins me in thanking the people of Saint Lucia for the support and encouragement which we have at all times received from them in the performance of our duties.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament, I wish you all well in your endeavours and 'may God bless our nation.'

GOVERNMENT WAGE CONTRACT WITH CIVIL SERVANTS STILL STALLED

Castries THE VOICE in English 13 May 87 p 1

[Text]

A new collective agreement between Government and public servants is now 13 months behind schedule and there seems to be no indication of when fresh negotiations will start.

The last valid contract between the two parties expired on March 31, last year meaning that another contract should have come into effect from April 1, 1986 to March 31, 1989.

Delays in negotiations and the implementation of the last agreement led to a prolonged and bitter impasse over retroactive pay between Government and public servants, which came to an end only last month when Government submitted to the demands of public service unions to pay a remaining 25 per cent of the 'backpay' money.

The last agreement, which was to have gone into effect from April 1983 and expire in March 1986, was not completed until November 1984, a situation which led to public servants claiming 20 months retroactive pay from the Government.

Late last year when the 'backpay dispute' reached its most critical stage, public service unions indicated to government their desire to avoid another such situation by ensuring an early conclusion and signing of the 1986-89 collective agreement.

The unions said then that they were prepared to negotiate an eight month wage freeze together with the new contract, but that was conditional on the early signing of a contract and on the payment of all outstanding backpay money.

But despite the fact that the unions' and Government negotiating teams held two separate rounds of talks last January, they reportedly never touched proposals for a new agreement.

President of the Civil Service Association (CSA), David Demarque, says that the two meetings dealt with 'procedural matters' in preparation for full-fledged contractual negotiations.

According to Demarque, the talks were suspended pending clarification of matters pertaining to the old contract. He said the Unions were being called upon to negotiate a new contract when there existed several outstanding issues from the expired agreement.

The atmosphere of general elections did not permit people to sit down and talk, Demarque noted. But he said that the Committee of Trade Unions, which groups the public service unions, was to meet "very soon" to consider a common position and to start negotiations on a new collective agreement.

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CSO, 3298/235

BRIEFS

UNDP PROJECT FUNDING--The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has allocated US\$9.13 million to Saint Lucia for the fourth five-year programming cycle (1987-1991). The money will be spent on a variety of projects in St Lucia including a national development strategy which is aimed at structural adjustment, principally through product diversification, increased exports and a policy of import substitution. In agriculture, the emphasis is on diversification and agrarian reform to provide farmers with their land through the subdivision of plantations previously owned by expatriates. The new St Lucia country programme includes the continuation of training programme for farmers: an evaluation of new agricultural opportunities: and projects to improve port security, market promotion, engineering capacity, and medical services. St Lucia will also benefit from US\$49.7 million approved by UNDP for regional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean. [Text] [Castries THE VOICE in English 13 May 87 p 9] /9274

CSO: 3298/235

DETAILS ON THEFT OF GUNS FROM POLICE BARRACKS

Call for Government Action

Port-of Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 24 May 87 p 9

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE theft of submachine guns from the Police Armoury at St. James Barracks last week is a matter of the gravest concern.

We call on the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Security for immediate action to ensure firstly that some person or persons are held responsible for this serious breach of security and secondly that steps be taken immediately to secure the Armoury so that such a disgraceful breach can never happen again.

While we do not wish to be alarmist, the very security of the nation could be at stake and to allow this to pass off as just another episode is to show a total lack of understanding of the implications.

The facts are that last week two very modern, very deadly submachine guns were removed from the Armoury. Information available to us indicates that it could be more than two. These submachine guns are not toy pistols. They are deadly and lethal, a simple touch of the trigger in the wrong hands capable of unleashing the greatest terror.

It is not easy to get into St James Barracks. The Armoury itself is guarded 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. How then was it possible for these guns to be removed?

Must Explain

The Prime Minister as ex-officio Chairman of the Council for National Security

must take immediate steps in conjunction with the Minister of National Security who is responsible for the security of the state and the Attorney-General responsible for law and order.

In the first place the Acting Commissioner of Police must explain exactly what is taking place. Has discipline and order in the service broken down to the extent where deadly weapons such as these are not under the strictest guard?

In our view the situation is serious enough to warrant the immediate suspension or at the very least the transfer of all those responsible for guarding the Armoury. The Armoury is stocked with weapons for the protection of the state. There is no need to outline what would happen if such weapons fall into the wrong hands, particularly in these dreadful days when crime, more so drug related crime stalks the nation. The closest possible inventory therefore has to be kept at all times with checks morning noon and night.

Locks And Chains

We have been told that in the bad old colonial days these weapons were secured with locks and chains, making it virtually impossible for anyone to remove a weapon without authority. What is the situation today? Is the Armoury like the hospital where drugs and even beds disappear without trace and no one is ever made accountable?

Could someone break into the Armoury, or is it a job from the inside?

* These are questions that must be answered immediately. There is no time for dealing with this episode in the manner of reports from one bureaucrat to another. The situation is dangerous and calls for immediate action.

Police Among 8 Arrested

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 87 p 1

[Article by Francis Joseph]

[Text] Police believe they have cracked a big conspiracy with the arrests of four policemen and the recovery of eight guns stolen from the Police Armoury at the St James Barracks, Port-of-Spain.

Investigators detained the four policemen over the weekend as enquiries continued into reports that an undisclosed number of firearms mysteriously disappeared from the "well-guarded armoury."

Senior Police officers headed by acting Senior Supt Hubert Williams, of the Port-of-Spain CID, raided the homes of several policemen over the weekend in Central and South Trinidad.

Alleged Conspiracy

Police also detained two brothers, another man and a housewife for questioning in connection with the alleged conspiracy.

Investigators recovered two UZI submachine guns, which reportedly disappeared from the armoury on May 18. Six other guns (five submachine guns) with police markings on them were recovered. At the time of the searches, the Police were unaware these guns were missing from the armoury.

The four detained policemen, one of whom is a corporal, are all stationed at the St James Barracks.

Acting Police Commissioner Clive Sealey said yesterday enquiries were continuing but offered no further comment. National Security Minister Herbert Atwell was unavailable when the GUARDIAN attempted to reach him yesterday.

Deputy Commissioner Lionel Dechi has been assigned to the armoury to take an inventory of the guns and ammunition stored there.

Since the discovery on May 18 that the two UZI submachine guns were missing, senior policemen visited the armoury and, according to Senator Atwell, increased security was mounted at the barracks.

Investigators plan to carry out further searches at the homes of other policemen and civilians.

No Proper Inventory

Up to last night senior policemen could not say exactly how many weapons are missing from the armoury because no proper inventory has ever been made. It was learnt that policemen used guns to go on shooting practice and exercises and never returned them to the armoury. Because there was never any proper inventory, senior officers never missed the guns.

Our officer said it would shock people to learn how many guns and ammunition are missing from the armoury.

Prime Minister A. N. R. Robinson is awaiting a full report on the matter from the National Security Minister.

List of Defendants, Charges

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 87 p 1

[Text]

A POLICE constable attached to the St James Barracks was placed yesterday on a total of \$312,500 bail, after he appeared in court to answer charges of stealing nine guns from the Police Armoury.

P.C. Philbert Patel, of Poonah Road, Williams-ville, South Trinidad, appeared before Magistrate Gregory Baker in the Port-of-Spain Fourth Court charged with stealing four sub-machine guns (SMGs), three self-loading rifles (SLRs), one .38 revolver and one .22 pistol.

P.C. Patel also was charged jointly with another policeman and four civilians for being in possession of the weapons.

Also charged were P.C. Gunness Secharan, P.C. Harold Barcoo, P.C. Patrick Thomas, Abraham Mohammed, of St James Street, Marabella; Paul Mohammed, Russell Mohammed and Yvonne Garcia, all of Poonah Road, Williamsville.

Insp Phillip Browne of the Port-of-Spain CID laid the following charges:

* Philbert Patel, between March 14 and May 23 at the St James Barracks, stole four sub-machine guns, three SLRs, one .38 revolver, and one .22 pistol, total value \$31,100, the property of the Trinidad and Tobago Government — case postponed to June 5 in Port-of-Spain.

* Philbert Patel and Paul Mohammed, during April 23 and May 23 at Williamsville, had in their possession one .22 pistol — case postponed to June 4 at Princes Town court.

* Philbert Patel, Abraham Mohammed and Yvonne Garcia, between March 14 and May 22 at Gasparillo, had three SLRs — case postponed to June 3 at San Fernando Magistrate's Court.

* Philbert Patel and Gunness Secharan, between March 14 and May 23 at Gasparillo, had in their possession one sub-machine gun — case postponed to June 3 at San Fernando.

Possession Of Ammunition

* Philbert Patel, Paul Mohammed and Russell Mohammed, between March 14 and May 22 at Williamsville, had in their possession one sub-machine gun — case postponed to June 4 at Princes Town.

* Philbert Patel, between March 14 and May 22 at Gasparillo, had in his possession two sub-machine guns — case postponed to June 3 at San Fernando.

* Harold Barcoo and Patrick Thomas, at Arima, had in their possession a quantity of ammunition — case postponed to Arima court on June 5.

Court prosecutor, Insp Ojaran Narace, objected to bail on the grounds that the defendants could leave the country and not face trial, as well as due to the nature of the offences and for national security reasons.

Israel Khan, appearing for the four policemen, said the Constitution recognised that all accused persons had the right to bail.

Mr Khan, who is associated with Donald Secharan and Alice Yorke-Soo Hon, asked if a Commissioner of Police could be placed on charges and be given bail, why should a constable not be afforded the same rights?

Counsel said all the charges were serious, and it was his clients' rights to be given bail. He said it was absurd to say they would abscond.

Magistrate Baker said there was genuine concern that the defendants could abscond, but there was no evidence to support this.

Patel was placed on a total of \$312,500 bail to cover all six charges. Barcoo and Thomas were each placed on \$90,000 bail; Abraham Mohammed on \$15,000 bail; Yvonne Garcia, \$10,000 bail; Gunness Secharan, \$50,000 bail; Paul Mohammed, \$27,500 bail; and Russell Mohammed, \$20,000 bail.

ROBINSON DISCUSSES POLITICAL SCENE, ECONOMIC ISSUES

View of Opposition

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 87 p 1

[Text]

BIG DIFFERENCE between the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction Government and the past People's National Movement regime is that, unlike most Third World governments, the NAR does not seek to liquidate its opponents.

Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson made the statement last Friday while addressing an NAR Diego Martin Central constituency conference. He said:

"Unlike most governments in Third World countries we haven't driven anyone away, we haven't sent anyone to jail, everybody who lost their deposit is still living here. The Opposition has more latitude than ever and we are preparing to build a peaceful democracy.

"In fact the Opposition here has so much latitude that they are outright bold-faced. So we have to put them in their place."

However, Mr Robinson warned that certain elements that fight against change in other countries also exist here, adding:

"We are not shooting anyone, we are not rounding up anyone and jailing them just like that, but they will go to jail. Competing elements are still here: the failed politicians are still here, the drug pushers, they are all doing their little thing. So you must be aware, be on your guard."

Display Of Solidarity

Mr Robinson told the small gathering that he was not speaking off the top of his head since he had sources, and now as Prime Minister he has even better sources. Knowledge, he said, is power.

He added that the tremendous display of solidarity shown at NAR constituency conferences indicates that the party is alive and aware of what is happening, and preparing to meet the challenges ahead.

Defending measures in the 1987 Budget, the Prime Minister said they had to be taken as emergency action in a situation

which necessitated such.

"I accepted the responsibilities entrusted to me when the ship was sinking and I had to stop the ship from sinking. I was not looking for popularity, I had a job to do and I did it. And in future when I have a job to do, I will do it — popularity or not."

He described the NAR's manifesto as the it's pledge to the country and the world.

Incentives To Private Sector

Mr Robinson told party members not to allow "people to push you around and tell you do this and do that. Say you have your own ideas. We have been elected for five years and we have five years to implement the ideas in the manifesto. That manifesto will be an important part of Trinidad and Tobago's history."

Looking ahead, he said incentives will be given to private sector efforts, since the state sector is overburdened and must shed its load. But he warned that in doing so the majority of this sector must not be allowed to fall into the hands of any one small group.

He indicated that Government is settling down to try and sort out the nation's many problems. The first meeting of the recently formed Consultative Council was held last week, he said, and the first meeting of the National Economic Planning Committee is due in two weeks' time. Meanwhile Government is implementing its economic recovery and 90-day action plans simultaneously as well.

Also addressing the gathering was parliamentary representative for Diego Martin Central, Leo des Vignes who spoke about improvements under the NAR Government and of further plans for the constituency.

Election of constituency council officers for the 1987-88 term was conducted also.

Civil Service Reform

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 87 pp 1, 29

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER A.N.R. Robinson says it will be necessary to address reform of the Public Service system, since there are problems with the efficiency and performance of the service which impact on the entire socio-economic system.

Mr Robinson made the statement yesterday in his capacity of Chairman of the National Planning Commission (NPC), at its inaugural meeting at the Eric Williams Plaza, Port-of-Spain. Stressing that he was not blaming public servants in any way, Mr Robinson added:

"Problems exist with respect to the level of efficiency and performance of the service which impact on the entire socio-economic system. It will be necessary to address the question of reform of the Public Service system with a view to improving cost-effectiveness, productivity, the quality of service and timeliness of decision-making."

Noting the country's extreme dependence on petroleum as a source of foreign exchange earnings and revenue, he said diversification of the country's economic base must be a priority for national planning.

Elaborating on the NPC's duties in the context of the country's current economic situation, the Prime Minister also warned that Trinidad and Tobago's growth of output has been weakening, and there are indications that growth may decelerate further.

Members of the National Planning Commission represent Government, labour and private sector organisations. Mr Robinson is assisted by Ministers Winston Dookeran (Planning and Reconstruction), Basdeo Panday (External Affairs, International Marketing and Tourism) and John Humphrey (Works, Settlement and Infrastructure).

The commission is part of a trilateral arrangement that includes the National Economic Advisory Council and the Joint Consultative Council.

NPC's duties will be to look ahead and try to foresee the consequences of actions and trends,

instead, Mr Robinson said, of taking a series of ad hoc uncoordinated decisions. It will be expected to contribute by overseeing socio-economic development plans, policies and strategies.

Mr Robinson said Government also will be looking to the NPC for advice on industrial development, human resource development, infrastructural, agricultural and technological development, as well as improvements in public administration and social policy.

He stressed that the commission's duties must be carried out with long-term effects in mind, as well as the matter of prioritisation.

Outlining "the grim realities" now facing the country, he admitted that NPC's immediate tasks are extremely challenging since the country is in the midst of a severe economic difficulty, complicated by certain fundamental weaknesses in the economic system.

Pointing to some of these, Prime Minister Robinson said that reform of the state enterprise sector is imperative, and that Government has already moved to overhaul this aspect of public sector operations.

A Cabinet-appointed team is already assessing the viability and future prospects of the existing and prospective portfolios for the rationalisation and reorganisation of state enterprises, public utilities and statutory authorities.

He also noted weakness in the local manufacturing sector, and the country's failure to secure much-needed agricultural diversification. He concluded:

"It is my hope and expectation that in the months ahead our deliberations will be constructive, fruitful and rewarding and our efforts will help to reshape and strengthen our economy and society to the benefit of all."

Warning on 'Agitation'

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 May 87 p 2

[Text]

PRIME Minister A.N.R. Robinson has warned about concerted efforts to destabilise the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) Government saying it was his duty to emphasise the threats facing the population.

The Prime Minister was addressing the San Fernando West constituency conference of the National Alliance for Reconstruction at the NAR office, Barron Building, Cross Crossing.

In an address which included an exhortation to the population to be "able to protect and defend ourselves," Robinson also said he would not retract his earlier statement that "some agitation in the streets

were promoted by drug dealers and drug pushers in the society."

His latest comments were an obvious reply to the Public Services Association which last week protested Robinson's statements that drug barons were behind recent workers' protests.

"I stand by that because I know it is true," he said. "We will not interfere with any expressions of trade unions ... but when we see elements in the society seeking to capitalise on the legitimate activities of others, and introduce methods and techniques which are alien to the system which we have accepted, then it is my duty to warn the population."

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 May 87 p 2

[Text]

PRIME Minister A.N.R. Robinson yesterday sketched out a six-point list of current problems which he said were but "symptoms of a deep-seated malaise" afflicting the local economy.

These are: ● difficulties surrounding the fiscal operations of the Government, arising from a continuing revenue shortfall, high and relatively inelastic recurrent expenditure commitments (including debt servicing obligations); ● high and burdensome budgetary support for state enterprises, statutory authorities and public utilities; ● concomitant difficulties in funding development expenditure; ● an unsatisfactory balance of payments position and rapid depletion of foreign exchange reserves; ● high and rising unemployment levels, accompanying continuing retrenchment in the economy; and ● a generally depressed state of private sector

activity.

He said this represented signs of "the grim reality" confronting the society at present, as he opened the inaugural meeting of the National Economic Planning Commission. The meeting took place at the Eric Williams Financial Building in Port of Spain.

Robinson, chairman of the commission, said its primary challenge was to assess and analyse the sources of these problems and devise feasible approaches for overcoming them.

He then touched on seven areas in which he said there was evidence of the "structural weaknesses contributing to our economic problems."

Firstly, he said there was the failure to break the extreme dependence on petroleum as the source of foreign exchange earnings and Government revenue. Related to this was the failure to secure much needed agricultural diversification.

He said there was also the evident inherent weakness of the existing local manufacturing activity. Problems existed in the level of efficiency and performance of the public service and the reform of the state enterprises was to be seen as an imperative, he added.

Among the organisations represented on the commission are the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association, Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress, the Council of Progressive Trade Unions, the Tobago House of Assembly and the Association of Local Government Bodies.

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CSO: 3298/237

UNION VOICES DISSATISFACTION WITH ROBINSON COMMENTS

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 May 87 p 37

[Text]

THE Council of Progressive Trade Unions has expressed its "distress and deep sense of hurt and anger" at statements made by Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson last week and reiterated on television on Tuesday night.

The Prime Minister, said Alva Allen of the CPTU, indicated that "the recent protest against the NAR Government was inspired by corrupt elements and drug pushers."

The CPTU said the remark clearly linked the trade union movement with drug dealers in the country and inferred that the protests over the removal of COLA was not genuine but an attempt by drug dealers to destabilise the Government.

It added that the police and the drug rehabilitation centres were well aware that the CPTU had always taken a strong position against the incidence of drug abuse and all its related adverse consequences for the population, adding that the CPTU had worked on national committees dealing with the problem and had on numerous occasions condemned the dehumanising trade.

/9274

CSO: 3298/237

ROBINSON REMARKS ON JUDGES DRAW CRITICISM FROM MEDIA

EXPRESS Comment

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 26 May 87 pp 1, 8

[Page 1 Opinion] [Text]

PRIME MINISTER A.N.R. Robinson, we feel, has been guilty of the very fault of which he accuses Trinidadians and Tobagonians: the failure to set the right example.

On Sunday night, when he addressed members of the National Alliance for Reconstruction at the Point Fortin Civic Centre and at the Gandhi College in Penal, Mr Robinson publicly rebuked judges for refusing, he said, to concede their travel grants. Clearly annoyed by the controversy involving the Chief Justice, members of the Judiciary and leading members of the Law Association, Mr Robinson said in obvious disgust: "Everybody has to make up their minds to get less. You can't come and tell me that the Constitution says you must not touch judges' salaries."

We don't think Mr Robinson realised what he was doing, because we do not believe that it was his intention to undermine the integrity of the Judiciary by holding it up to public ridicule. But the truth is, by the very ferocity of his complaint, Prime Minister Robinson has cast an ugly shadow over our judges and even though he says in the same breath that the Executive will not interfere with the Judiciary he scarcely restores the damage he has done.

Re-stating the criticism he made at last week's Press conference that "examples" in the society were "letting down the population", Mr Robinson said of the judges and the issue: "You can't have those privileges, those cli-

ques in this society anymore. No untouchables in this society anymore." But the point is, by the very nature of their job, and because we want them to be incorruptible and independent, judges must be treated differently. Even if we run the risk of creating a privileged clique.

Mr Robinson also went on to argue that if the country's foreign exchange situation worsens, that judges, too, will suffer like the rest of the country. We are sure that is as it should be and judges, we feel, will have no problem facing this consequence. But it is alarming that Mr Robinson should appear, when he himself says that there is an attempt to destroy the Judiciary, to be implicating judges in a squalid political squabble.

To maintain their impartiality, judges are in no position to defend themselves from political attacks. In fact, they are constitutionally debarred from so doing. But is Mr Robinson now saying that the Judiciary, in the new

struggle that we are in to survive, should hold no special position in the society? Is he therefore disregarding the careful separation of powers which underpins our system of government?

This is incredible behaviour for a Prime Minister and a party that came to power on such a widespread majority. Mr Robinson hardly needs, if he encounters one political problem or the other, to play off one sector of the society against another — and when he does it as in this case of the Judiciary he is demonstrating at best a dangerous fit of pique and at worst a recklessness that his office cannot afford.

Surely, the misunderstanding which exists between the Chief Justice and the judges

must be settled in private and by means other than the Prime Minister taking advantage of his political position and lambasting the judges in public. Only yesterday the President of the Law Association thought it necessary to caution Mr Robinson on his statements regarding certain members of the Legal and Judicial Service and Police Service Commissions.

Mr de la Bastide is correct when he argues that the dispute over the legality or illegality of the appointments of members of those Commissions can only be settled by judicial review; for Mr Robinson to seek to have it settled by appealing for public pressure to be brought to bear on members of the Commissions is really stepping out on a limb. And now he

appears to be trying to shape a similar attitude on the issue raised in the matter of the Chief Justice vs the five judges.

Without any doubt, the public image of the Judiciary must be one of "inflexible integrity and high standards of conduct". But by enjoining the controversy as he did and by his intemperate remarks, Mr Robinson has continued to cast doubt as Chief Justice Bernard did before him, on the goodwill and good sense of our judges.

It would be a pity if he did not heed Mr de la Bastide's warning that there are persons who are neither knaves nor fools whose right he must acknowledge even if they disagree with him and appear not to share his concerns for reconstructing the society and the country.

GUARDIAN Views

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 May 87 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

It is most unfortunate that Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson chose to publicly enter the controversy over judges with respect to judicial contact travel allowances. He may have meant no harm, but the public cannot help but get the impression he is encroaching on matters beyond his constitutional limits.

By now everybody knows that the independence of the judiciary is a basic pillar maintaining the rule of law and all the other principles and freedoms of our democratic society. So far, this tradition has been well observed; our judges have been able to operate as they constitutionally should, without any pressure, threat or

interference from other arms of the Government — political or executive — or from any other external source.

It is also our view that the independence which the Constitution grants to our judges is inviolable; it must be scrupulously protected at all costs and any attempt to interfere with it should become a matter for public concern and alarm.

Chief Executive

In the light of all this, we feel Mr Robinson was wrong to publicly rebuke the judges for holding out for their judicial contact travel grants; this is a matter on which

the Prime Minister could wisely have followed the example of the President and left strictly and silently alone.

Clearly, Mr Robinson holds strong personal views on the issue, particularly since his Government has been calling on the country as a whole for a voluntary sharing of sacrifice and a realistic adjustment to economic hard times.

Such views may even be justified, but Mr Robinson must be careful to vet his personal opinions when he chooses to utter them in public as the Prime Minister of the country. He must know that what he says as the Chief Executive, as leader of the

Government and the country, carries formidable weight and has wide-reaching implications that are taken seriously by all our citizens.

For him, then, to swipe publicly at the protesting judges is most unfortunate, especially when he ominously adds: "Everybody has to make up their minds to get less. You can't come and tell me that the Constitution says you must not touch judges' salaries."

The fact is the Constitution says just that. And the Constitution is the Constitution; it is not, as the Attorney General once described it, "just a piece of paper." It is a sacred document which is the basic charter for the operation of our democratic institutions and, as far as it relates to our judiciary or any other institution, its provisions are unchangeable and untouchable. They cannot be tampered with by anyone, no matter how powerful or influential.

Considering his outburst, is the Prime Minister now publicly declaring some intention to violate the Constitution and to interfere with the salaries of judges? We feel sure that even Mr Robinson will be horrified by such a question, but there seems no other implication to be drawn from his slap at the protesting judges and his attendant remarks.

We expect that in retrospect the Prime Minister will realise the serious nature of such an utterance and the fact that it will not serve to enhance his stature in the eyes of those who appreciate the

institutional nature of our society.

As far as the controversy over judicial contact is concerned, we have expressed our view, and there may well be a natural ingredient in the issue when it is placed in the current economic context, but even so we do not believe it can justify the public rebuke delivered by the Prime Minister.

Judicial Review

Indeed, it is the opinion among some leading attorneys that even the Chief Justice had no authority to base his denial of the judges' judicial contact travel grants on the state of the economy and the depleted state of the Treasury.

What we believe Mr Bernard must now seek to do is to have his authority in this matter fully and clearly established by a change in the regulations so that the Chief Justice, as head of the Judiciary, would be able to administer these arrangements without any dispute over interpretation and without any challenge to his administrative competence.

We believe that it was also quite injudicious for the Prime Minister to call upon the people to resolve the appointments of Mr Bain and Mr Kelsick to the Service Commissions as if the opinions he had received had settled the matter legally.

This newspaper has repeatedly advised the Prime Minister to submit the matter for judicial review and we are pleased that the Law Association has now come out with a statement expressing the same view.

We urge the Prime Minister to consider it carefully.

PANDAY, TEWARIE COMMENT ON NAR, OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Panday on Government Situation

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 May 97 p 3

[Text]

ALL IS NOT well with the five-month old National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) Government, according to statements made by one of the leading political figures in the party.

External Affairs Minister Basdeo Panday appeared to be responding to Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson's analogy of seasick crew members vomiting on colleagues when he spoke at a function organised by the Mathilda-Fairfield Village Council in his honour at the Princes Town Senior Comprehensive School on Monday night. The meeting was chaired by council president Manick Bissoon.

Panday said: "It is not enough to say that some of the sailors on board getting seasick because the sea rough and they are vomiting on their colleagues.

"That is not enough because maybe they are vomiting and maybe the nausea is the result of a stench which is emanating from the staterooms of the very ship." Panday added: "That is a possibility so that the struggle is not ended. In fact we have begun a new phase of struggle."

Panday, one of the two deputy political leaders of the NAR, told the crowd that the perception of the people was that "the Government has fallen into the hands of big business."

He urged them to organise themselves to influence the Government because "the moment a new government gets power, the power brokers pounce upon the government with each of them influencing it." Panday said: "If that perception is correct, then the fault is yours. You must organise yourselves and you must ensure that your influence impinges on their deci-

sion-making. There is a tremendous struggle which has begun."

Panday said the struggle had always been a struggle to end injustice, discrimination and unfairness. "It is a struggle," he added, "against the brutality that one sees in the society. And I am not talking about the brutality of ordinary criminals; one expects to receive brutality from them. I am talking about brutality of the State machinery. These are the things we fought against."

Panday said the election results did not bring these to an end. He said power was always a means to an end but never an end in itself. He added that a lot of frustrations developed in the society among those who supported the NAR because they were unable to distinguish between the party and the Government.

He said: "The party is not the Government and the Government is not the party. And some people fail to distinguish between office and power. And they fail to distinguish between reigning and ruling. The Queen of England reigns but the Prime Minister rules. In India, Nehru (Jawaharalal) had office but Gandhi (Mahatma) had power."

"And there is a feeling among our people that all those things we were fighting against would disappear once we put a new government in power."

He added: "I want to assure you, that it does not work that way and I am sure you have realised that it has not worked that way." Panday told the crowd that the power structure of the last 30 years had remained even after the December 15 general election.

"All those things you have been fighting against have not just vanished," he said. "They are still there. Injustice is still there. And discrimination is still there. And the unfairness is still there. And there is still the brutality and callousness that emanate from the State machinery. And therefore what we must realise is that we have a new phase of the struggle to continue."

Panday Follow-up

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 May 87 p 1

[Text]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister Basdeo Panday has scoffed at suggestions of a rift within the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

Mr Panday did so when asked by the *Guardian* yesterday to clarify statements he made at a function in his honour Monday night, which were perceived to be attacks on the hierarchy of the party, in power for the past five months.

He stressed that his remarks were not criticisms levelled against the party's political leader, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

Among the statements made was that on the question of racism it was not enough to say that it was a deadly sin, as said last week by Mr Robinson.

"What the people must do is to demand institutions, mechanisms and systems be put in place to ensure that all allegations of racism are investigated, exposed and punished," he said.

Mr Panday, an attorney-at-law and trade unionist, asked if the NAR had called on him to explain his remarks, said

Perfectly True

"There is nothing to be explained. What I did was to

give the perception of the people since the new Government took office. "They are not of the view that all the jobs or houses can be provided overnight, but they expect to see institutions set up to deal with real complaints in the society.

"To explain the truth? If you to speak to anybody else you will understand that everything I said was perfectly true. A new Government has taken office but the same power structure exists.

"I think I shall always be permitted to speak the truth because we did not vote out the PNM to create a new PNM where one is denied the right to speak the truth."

On his contention that the stench from the state rooms of the ship was causing some of the crew to vomit on their colleagues, Mr Panday explained that instead of blaming outside elements for problems, it would be wise to ascertain if there are not internal causes as well. He added:

"I was not attacking the Prime Minister nor any individual, and contrary to what people might feel there is no rift nor division in NAR. We are a democratic organisation committed to freedom of speech."

EXPRESS on Panday Remarks

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 29 May 87 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

AN EXPERIENCED politician as Mr Basdeo Panday must know fully well that his recent utterances, in obvious response to statements by the Prime Minister, must be a cause of some concern among members of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR). And, since the NAR is also the ruling party, that concern extends to the population at large.

Especially in view of the fact that one of the most often repeated criticisms of the NAR before the party swept to power last December 15 was that it was

a "pick up side" or a "coalition," and, given the history of coalitions, it was doomed to split asunder before too long.

This was a main plank of the People's National Movement (PNM) in the last general election campaign, though clearly it failed to impress the electorate which rejected the PNM completely in overwhelming favour of the NAR.

The minute, however, there are whisperings of conflict within the NAR, the spectre of splits and counter splits arises. And

there have been, for months now, more than just whispers.

It would be precipitate though to believe that the NAR is going to fall apart simply because members of the party have different views on different issues and are obviously to air those views from time to time. This in fact may be a very healthy development in our politics, which has for too long remained a cloistered affair.

NAR general secretary Beau Tewarie went to some lengths in an interview on TTT last Wednesday night to explain that

the way in which the NAR came together suggests that difference of interests from the start, and there is little reason to believe that now that the party has won power, those differences will simply melt away.

More importantly, we believe, Mr Tewarie made the point that the country is reacting still to the "political culture" which the PNM built in this country during 30 long years of rule. Up until Mr George Chambers assumed the leadership of the party in 1981, there was only one voice in the PNM, that of its charismatic founder.

If there were differ-

ences between PNM members over the years, these were kept within the confines of the party, on the grounds that there should be "no washing of dirty linen in public." The result, though, was that the country remained largely unpoliticised since political discussion was reduced to a bare minimum.

Mr Tewarie believes that the NAR, representing as it does a coalition of different parties with different interests, will usher in a different kind of political culture, one that is open—and Mr Panday has more or less said the same thing, by arguing that the party is a democratic one

and its members are free to voice their opinions as they see fit.

The country as a whole stands to benefit from this kind of open politics, and we would certainly wish to encourage it. Criticism of one's peers and even colleagues does not necessarily mean a parting of the ways. Criticism, in fact, can often have the opposite effect, bringing differences into the open and resolving them in the open.

But it is something we will continue to observe very closely, because politicians do not always say what they mean, nor do they always mean what they say.

Discussion in NAR

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 31 May 87 p 8

[Text]

NEITHER deputy leader Basdeo Panday nor vice-chairman Nizam Mohammed attended last Thursday's National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) executive meeting, where recent statements by Panday in response to Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson were discussed.

NAR general-secretary Dr Beau Tewarie confirmed yesterday Panday's statements were discussed at the executive meeting, attended by Robinson who is political leader of the NAR.

"The executive took the view that while the party is committed to democracy and to open Government," Tewarie said, "respect must be shown by all for the party constitution."

The executive also felt

that forums and institutions exist in the party for addressing grievances and resolving differences of opinion, and discussed the party's new code of ethics which is to be monitored by a disciplinary committee to be formalised at the next executive meeting.

The same view was taken after Speaker Mohammed's outburst at a public meeting in Central Trinidad early this month, where he criticised the Government's distribution of Development and Environmental Works Division (DEWD) projects, and Junior Works Minister Dr Carson Charles in particular.

Robinson then suggested some members of the new ship of state, saved from sinking but

still in rough waters, were "vomiting" on their colleagues. Panday, who is External Affairs Minister, suggested at Princes Town last Monday this could be because of the "stench emanating from the staterooms" of the ship.

The *Sunday Express* was told that while Panday's comments were discussed by the party executive, Robinson's were not, and that demands were made for firm action against Panday during heated debate.

Energy Minister Kelvin Ramnath, who, like Panday and Mohammed, represents one of the traditional "Old-Guard ULF" Caroni constituencies in Parliament, reportedly left the executive meeting early.

Also at the meeting were Dr Tewarie, party chairman Senator Herbert Atwell, deputy leader Karl Hudson-Phillips, vice-chairman Senator Clive Pantin, elections officer Anthony Isidore Smart, treasurer Martin Sampath, public relations officer Ken Ahlack, Sunjirattan Rambachan, Margaret Hector, Dr Romesh Mootoo and others.

Tewarie on 'Opposition Politics'

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 May 87 p 50

[Text]

NATIONAL Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) general secretary Dr Beau Tewarie has warned that this is not the time for opposition politics, saying that that role was a thing of the past members of the NAR.

Dr Tewarie was addressing the annual conference of the NAR Siparia constituency on Sunday night. He said it was disconcerting that there was no contest for posts on the constituency executive when clearly there had been problems. The meeting

was chaired by Ralph Ujow.

Said Dr Tewarie: "You can bring the community together by giving the members some form of responsibilities. When you leave out people you are really wasting resources.

"And when people simply play the role of opposition or protest in their constituency, what they are doing is hampering the constituency from moving forward."

He said: "This is not the time for opposition politics. That was last year. This is the time to

address the serious task of reconstruction and we must pull this constituency together.

"If we do not offer leadership, if we do not put our people in place and educate our people, the party branch will not become the cutting edge of transformation in the community."

Dr Tewarie warned the constituency that it could not realise the goal of reconstruction or political or economic transformation nor would it be in place for consultation if it was divided and weak.

Tewarie on Rumors of NAR 'Rift'

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 May 87 p 1

[Text]

THE National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) is a "stable and cohesive" political party, general secretary Beau Tewarie said in an interview on TTT last night.

About suspected rifts within the party, provoked by statements made by deputy political leader Basdeo Panday, Tewarie said the NAR had come together in a certain way and had a different character from the People's National Movement.

He said there were bound to be tensions because of the way the party had come together but there were mechanisms for resolving these.

He said he had not heard Panday raise any problems but there is a party executive meeting tonight at which, presumably, the issue could come up. (See Page 38).

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CSO: 3298/237

OPPOSITION LEADER CONTINUES CRITICISM OF NAR GOVERNMENT

Manning on Failure of NAR

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 May 87 p 1

[Article by Gail Alexander]

[Text]

STRESSING that the National Alliance for Reconstruction Government has failed, Opposition Leader Patrick Manning says an urgent rescue mission — which can only be conducted by the People's National Movement — is needed.

Mr Manning made the statement at yesterday's weekly luncheon of the Port-of-Spain Rotary Club held at the Holiday Inn.

Delivering the feature address, the interim political leader of the PNM detailed what he called examples of the Government's blundering. The record, he said, has been achieved in only five short months by a party which won the general election by an overwhelming 33-3 majority. He added:

"There has been so much ill will and lack of statecraft displayed that we must prepare for change. If people wish to save the nation from reckless, selfish government, they will have no choice but to call on the PNM to restore respectability to Trinidad and Tobago."

Itemising what he described as examples of an inept Government, Mr Manning said that:

Reckless Action

- The Government has succeeded in paralysing public servants with fear and accused the NAR of victimising "defenceless" public servants;

- Publication of the Drug Report was a reckless action, resulting in character assassination while allowing the truly guilty to escape;

- By suspending the cost of living allowance

to public servants Government breached its collective agreement and threatens to destroy the very people who have helped build the country;

- Government had gone to unprecedented lengths in appointing persons to senior positions;

- It has disrespected high office in the land, to the extent that the out-going President had to learn of his successor via the Press;

- The governing party has used, abused and discarded its ranks of loyal female supporters who were the backbone of the party during election campaigning;

- Government unilaterally attempted to amend the Constitution;

- Wasted public funds by sending two Ministers and a Tobago House of Assembly official to Germany to witness the launching of a ferry, which could have been done here, or handled by this country's High Commissioner in London;

Three Steps Backward

- Recent utterances by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in his capacity as a parliamentary representative diminished the status of his office.

Mr Manning told Rotarians:

"For every two steps forward, we take three steps backward where moral and ethical development is concerned. As the calypsonian says, 'this is madness — this is not a government.'"

Making no apologies for canvassing, he urged Rotarians to get involved with the party and play their part.

Economic Disarray

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 May 87 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO—"I WANT to make it absolutely clear that we never expected, nor is it reasonable to expect that in five and

a half months, the Government of the day could solve all of the problems in the country. We never expected it. We still do not expect it and it is not reasonable to expect that."

So said Opposition Leader Patrick Manning, while addressing a public meeting at Pleasantville, San Fernando, on Wednesday night.

However, he said, what it is reasonable for us to expect is that even if the Government cannot solve the problems that confront us, "five and a half months is enough time to demonstrate to the population that you know what you are about and at least there is some plan in accordance with which you are working and that that plan will bring Trinidad and Tobago to a particular point and at a particular time."

Mr Manning, M.P. San Fernando East, said that as of now, if such a plan exists, he is not aware of it, nor has the Government taken the people into its confidence to make such a plan public.

Opposition Leader believed that the same way that it is unreasonable to expect Government to solve the problems of the country in five and a half months, it is also unreasonable to make certain accusations against the PNM.

"In our time, was there mismanagement at the level of Government? The answer undoubtedly is yes, there was some, must have been, as there is today.

"Was there some corruption? I have no proof but I will be naive to say there was not, very likely there was. Have mismanagement and corruption been responsible for the state of the economy in Trinidad and Tobago today? The answer is absolutely no."

And regarding the state of the economy, Mr Manning went on explain, as he did during the election, the importance of gas and oil to Trinidad and Tobago including the rise and fall in prices of oil on the international market.

Oil Prices

He also said, after giving details, that if the Government of the day in Trinidad and Tobago, as the Governments of sev-

eral oil exporting countries of the world operated on the assumption that the price of oil will be about US\$100 a barrel by the year 2,000, and began to put together plans and programme developments, adjust the rate of developments of the various countries, to take that into account, it was done on the basis of what was widely held at the time as to where oil prices were going.

Today, that has not come to pass so there is no reason to blame the PNM or any of the other Governments in the developing world: the oil exporting countries which operated on the basis of similar perceptions.

Senator Augustus Ramkreersingh spoke of new calypso to be sung soon which the words-ship, ship, the captain sinking. He also spoke on the effects the rise in prices of commodities, were having on the population.

Also addressing the meeting were Morris Marshall, M.P. Port-of-Spain East, temporary Senator Angela Hamel-Smith and former Member of Parliament, Cyril Rogers, among others.

Threat of 'Social Upheaval'

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 29 May 87 p 2

[Text]

OPPOSITION Leader Patrick Manning has charged that the new National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) was interested in dollars and cents rather than the welfare of people.

Manning addressed a public meeting organised by the People's National Movement (PNM) at Pleasantville in south Trinidad on Wednesday night. The meeting was chaired by Senator Winston

Moore. Manning said the new Government had taken conscious decisions which were making life uncomfortable for the citizens of the country.

Manning rebuked the NAR for making statements that contributed to the insecurity of workers who feared being retrenched. He read a letter now being circulated by NAR general secretary, Dr Beau Tewarie, advising party groups to be prepared to have members employed

on the 14 projects soon to be implemented in the design, construct and finance plan. Manning said nearly all those projects had been conceived under the PNM regime.

Said Manning: "You see what they are doing? It is jobs for their members. The NAR is not for all the people." Manning said the Government was setting the stage for social upheavals in the country, warning that it will only have itself to blame for that situation.

Touching on the fall-

ing oil production in the country, Manning said there was no hope for a rise in production unless Government was prepared to adjust the oil tax structure. He said this was critical to a resurgence in the industry.

Manning said Amoco Trinidad Limited had a production drop of some 10,000 bpd. Said Manning: "The Government is paralysed and cannot act. Why doesn't it act on the oil tax adjustment?"

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CSO: 3298/237

SUGAR CROP FALLS SHORT; NO CARONI PERSONNEL CUTS PLANNED

Caroni Sugar Output

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 87 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO—GOVERNMENT-OWNED Caroni (1975) Limited ended its 1987 crop with a shortfall in sugar production which could be a little over 14,500 tonnes on completion of grinding off operations.

Target sugar production was 100,000 tonnes. The company made 85,478 tonnes up to Saturday. Brechin Castle factory stopped taking cane on Sunday and is now in its boiling off operation which should be completed by tomorrow. Ste Madeleine ceased grinding last week.

Caroni is due to ship out the remainder of its 47,300 tonnes sugar quota to the European Economic Community (EEC) by the end of this month, amounting to a little more than 7,600 tonnes.

Quota of 6,700 tonnes to the U.S. market has already been supplied. Sugar export is expected to bring in about \$100

million in revenue to the company.

Canefarmers had a good year. They have been able to take out about 98 per cent of their harvest and according to Deputy Manager of Trinidad Islandwide Canefarmers Association (TICFA) Alton Farrell, farmers had one of their best crops. Only problem was that the hot sun dried up some of their canes.

Main Setback

As for Caroni Limited, their main setback was the prevalence of unplanned or malicious cane fires which caused the company to abandon substantial quantities of canes, resulting in millions of dollars in losses, said a company official.

Final figures pertaining to overall performance of the 1987 crop are expected to be released shortly.

Future Plans

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 87 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO—NO RETRENCHMENT is proposed by State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited during the company's five year (1988-1992) development plan.

And that statement is contained in the company's medium term plan perspective which was presented at last week's symposium, held at Sevilla Club, Brechin Castle.

Symposium on Caroni with emphasis on diversification was held jointly between the company and the Ministry of Planning and Reconstruction with a number of other Government agencies participating.

Caroni's paper dealt extensively with such subjects as competition from caloric sweeteners, basis of the five-year plan, sugar operations, financial implications, diversification, new areas for

investment and recurrent expenditure, revenue estimates and cost of production/tonne sugar 1988-1992.

Regarding new areas of investment, it was pointed out that the company has been conducting feasibility studies and has been collaborating with a number of institutions in identifying profitable areas for new investment which would ultimately assist in making the company's operations viable.

Following areas have been identified as suitable for investment:

Tilapia project, Montano Shrimp Farm-Brickfield, Bagasse Board Plant, Bagasse Feed Study—Phase 2, Commercial Sheep Farm.

Areas being examined for new investment are:-

Pulp and paper project, Joint venture meat processing, Cotton project, Ceramics, Citrus juicing plant, Fermentation technology based on molasses, and Ethanol.

Ouster of Panday's Brother

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 31 May 87 p 8

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text]

ATTORNEY Subash Panday, brother of External Affairs Minister, Basdeo Panday, has been sacked from his post as legal adviser to the Trinidad Islandwide Cane Farmers Association (TICFA) following an emergency meeting of its management committee last week.

Almost immediately after receiving the dismissal letter, Panday announced the formation of an interim committee aimed at unseating TICFA as a representative of canefarmers. That committee will from tomorrow begin a series of meetings in the canefarming areas to expose what Panday described as, "the ineffectiveness of TICFA to deal with the issues affecting canefarmers."

No reason was given for the action of the committee, but a briefly-worded letter to Panday delivered Thursday evening, thanked him for his services, which TICFA said were no longer required.

The action against Panday was instituted by TICFA's acting chairman Seepersad Arjoonsingh on a motion moved by him. TICFA was unhappy about a statement made by Panday early in the sugar crop, charging that at a meeting with Food Production Minister Lincoln Myers, the Minister had expressed a view about alleged corruption in Caroni Ltd. Caroni Ltd has since demanded an apology from TICFA, which Panday refused to tender.

Panday confirmed receiving the dismissal letter, saying he had no regrets nor "hard feelings." However, Panday claimed TICFA became disenchanted with him because he had disagreed with the committee, seeking \$92,000 from government to attend a sugar conference in Australia. Panday charged that neither TICFA nor canefarmers had ever benefitted from conferences attended by the association.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

NJAC OFFICIALS--The National Joint Action Committee has appointed six deputy political leaders for the 1987/88 term. Rajah Ramlogan, Aiyegoro Ome, Nyahuma Obika, Liseli Daaga, Moriba Kwamina and Kasala Kamara would, according to political leader Makandal Daaga, provide the nation with the necessary inspiration and leadership at this time. The appointments were made during a meeting of the party last Sunday at its Hermitage Road, Port of Spain headquarters. Daaga also called on the women's arm of the party to mobilise the women of the nation to break the psychological impasse created in the nation by the policies of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction Government. [Text] [Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 May 87 p 50] /9274

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DATE FILMED

11 Aug. 1987

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